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## King welcomes results of elections, says no decision yet on forming new, or reshuffling, government

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday the Kingdom's first multi-party elections in nearly four decades reflected the "irreversible course of democracy" that Jordan had adopted and expressed confidence the country was on the right course.

"I am proud of Jordan and Jordanians," the King told a press conference, shortly after Interior Minister Saleh Hamad formally announced the results of Monday's elections, which produced a Parliament dominated by independents. The King refused to characterise the new Parliament as pro-peace or anti-peace, and stressed that the continuation of the democratic process in Jordan was as important as the quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel.

"The peace process started with the last Parliament and will continue with this Parliament here in a democratic country, and we all will cooperate to achieve best results," the King said.

"My commitment is for peace... a just peace, a lasting peace. My personal dream is a legacy that you can leave for future generations... peace with dignity... peace that (ensures) rights and makes all feel that they can all come together to en-

joy what has been denied them for such a long time."

"I am very, very happy indeed... about the results of the elections which reflected a high sense of responsibility among Jordanians," the King said. "We appealed to them to send the best of those who could represent them... and they did."

Some of the questions from the packed audience of local and international journalists covering the elections focused on one point — did the King now feel stronger and more confident that Jordan would go ahead with its peace negotiations with Israel, especially with a less vociferous Parliament with less rejectionists of the peace process represented by the Islamic Action Front (IAF)?

"I think Jordan is stronger," the King told one questioner. Asked whether he felt mosque preachers responded to his call to not mix politics with religion in houses of worship, the King said:

"I do believe that politics should be kept out of the mosques," the King said, because he did not believe that the theologians were aware of actual issues involved to be able to handle them at "responsible level."

"The house of God is for all of us to worship," he added.

The Jordanian response to our appeal," King Hussein said, reflected "trust, a trust



that goes two ways."

"I am very, very happy indeed with the response..." he added.

The King was asked whether Jordan felt a "threat" from the Islamists after they had been "sidelined" in the elections.

"There is no threat sir," the King said in an exasperated tone. "We are one people... Muslims and Christians in this country."

"If you are talking about (Islam as) a political movement, then that is something else. Every element of this country came together... four years ago and concluded something that is very, very important for this country — a National Charter — binding all of us. And so I don't see any problem."

The King was asked whether he was contemplating

the idea of a party government, whereby he would ask the largest bloc in Parliament to form a cabinet — in this case the IAF, which won 16 seats in the 80-member Lower House.

"I doubt whether I would," the King said. "...the possibility is that of the best people being appointed... or may be a next government..."

The King said an elected government was a possibility that could be realised in the next four or eight years and expressed hope that by then the 20 political parties in Jordan would have shrunk to "far less" and be more capable of producing definite programmes to be presented to the people.

At this point in time, however, "...the next phase is to form a new cabinet or make some changes in the present one, and then Parliament will hopefully vote its confidence in the government and we will proceed from there," the King said.

In response to a question, the King welcomed the success of a woman candidate in Monday's polls to become the first Jordanian woman to enter the Kingdom's Parliament and said he was "very happy about it."

The victory (of Toujan Faisal, who won a seat set aside for Circassians in an Amman electoral district) is a "very, very important step in

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## The IAF's 'poor' showing was partly due to its own doing, but also to other factors

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Other than the obvious effects of introducing the one-person, one-vote electoral system on the showing of Islamists in the elections, their reduced strength in the 12th Parliament is the result of two factors: Basically a general trend among Jordanians to elect new deputies to represent them, and internal divisions and power struggle among the Islamic Action Front (IAF) itself, which is their main umbrella organisation.

The front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, fielded 36 candidates in 17 electoral districts, but managed to gain only 16 seats across the Kingdom.

While not seen as a major setback for the front, which will remain the largest single politically-organised bloc in the 12th Parliament, the result indicated a net loss for the Islamists who were largely expected to win 18-20 seats in the Lower House.

Sources and well-informed observers are quick to explain that this result does not indicate that the IAF has lost among its constituency of de-

duced voters.

"They have kept a steady popular base," one observer said, citing the example of Zarqa where the Brotherhood in the 1989 elections won around 24,000 votes assumed to be the Islamists' base support. In Monday's elections the three top IAF candidates got a combined vote of 25,376 votes in that city. "If one deducts the extra tribal votes which went to one of the IAF candidates (Bassam Umoush from the Bani Hassan tribe) then it would be around the same number of votes as in 1989," the observer, who did not want to be identified by name, said.

But these election results are not without meaning. The IAF lost three of their most influential figures, two of whom contested the race in the Balqa District. They are former House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, former spokesperson for the Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary bloc Ibrahim Khreisat, and Mohammad Abu Fares, a hawkish fundamentalist who ran in Amman's Fifth District.

The front this time is also less likely to find many allies

outside its own ranks in Parliament — except perhaps with the hardline — leftists on the Palestinian problem. The Brotherhood's satellite influence used to be a major factor at play in the 11th Parliament. Because the previous Lower House was elected according to the bloc-voting system, the Brotherhood was able to help some Christians and independents win hotly contested seats.

These "allies" regularly avoided controversial voting sessions in the House or facilitated a majority vote for Islamists on the social agenda of the Brotherhood, including issues like the segregation of sports facilities and swimming pools as well as banning alcohol in the Kingdom.

The projections for this Parliament indicate a diminished weight for the 16 IAF deputies, and the analysts believe that several factors have contributed to this change.

First, Jordanians paid little attention to candidates who invoked the Middle East peace process in their campaigns, preferring to cast their votes in favour of those they knew would serve them while deputies. But having

chosen candidates who are known for their good connections with the government — because they could provide them with services — they produced a Parliament that is less antagonistic to government policies and in turn to its policy on the Middle East process.

The analysts maintain that this trend among voters may have contributed to the reduced number of successful IAF candidates, who contested the elections on a campaign of rejection of the peace process and who at the same time had failed to provide solutions to national problems, like the economy and unemployment.

"When most Jordanians were becoming apathetic to large political slogans and largely concerned about day-to-day survival, the Islamists were still carrying banners calling for jihad (holy war)," one analyst said.

Thus the reduced political concern over grand political issues by Jordanians, largely helped by the application of the one-person, one-vote system, took away from the glamour of the Islamists'

(Continued on page 5)

## King denies Israeli report that meeting is planned

By a Staff Reporter

IN HIS PRESS conference yesterday, His Majesty King Hussein denied reports from Israel that he was ready to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington next week.

"I can deny this information and I am not aware of any such arrangement," the King said. "I am due in the U.S. for a regular medical check-up in mid-January, and the trip would include Washington. But beyond that I do not know of any arrangement at this point in time."

The answer appeared to be in reply to comments by a senior Israeli foreign ministry official, carried by Agence France Presse, that his country was trying to arrange a meeting between the King and Mr. Rabin with a view to the King visiting Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin is scheduled to fly to Washington Wednes-

day on a 10-day trip to the U.S.

At a different point during the press conference the King was asked "when" he will visit Jerusalem and meet with Mr. Rabin.

"All in good time," said the King, but he emphatically reaffirmed his position as a member of the Hashemite family and descendant of the Prophet Mohammad, that there cannot be any compromise over Jerusalem if anyone sought to exert sole control over the Holy City.

He reiterated that he would not accept any sovereignty over Jerusalem except that of God, but that in an atmosphere of peace and dialogue among the three monotheistic religions of the world a solution could be found where everyone's religious rights are protected.

The King was also asked on reported Syrian "criticism" of Jordan over the King-

dom's approach to the peace process and whether he had met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as Israeli media claimed early this month.

"I have not been told of any Syrian criticisms of Jordanian policies," the King said. "Jordan does not criticise others for whatever policies they decide on."

"As far as Jordanian policies are concerned, (Jordan) is involved in a peace process, (and) it has its own concerns... it is an ongoing process, but beyond that I don't care to say anything."

Reaffirming Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, the King reiterated his rejection of unilateral accords with Israel.

At the same time, he said, others involved in the peace process should also make an effort to make progress since Jordan cannot wait and will

not wait indefinitely for others to catch up.

### Arafat statement

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in Brussels that "Jordan is going to sign, within a few days, a friendly agreement."

Information Minister Maan Abu Nowar, commenting on the report carried by international news agencies, said he was not aware of any such plan.

Mr. Peres said Tuesday the outcome of Monday's general elections in Jordan was a boost to Middle East peace moves.

AFP quoted Mr. Peres as saying that King Hussein had taken moves to accelerate democracy, adding that "in my view all progress towards democratisation is progress towards peace."



Toujan Faisal

## Toujan Faisal's victory — history in the making

By Kathrine Rath

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Toujan Faisal's victory in Monday's elections, which made her the first woman ever to be elected to Parliament in the history of Jordan, marks a milestone in the political life of the Kingdom.

Ms. Faisal's success has finally put an end to male monopoly over the Lower House and political life in general, and has at the same time, shown a concrete sign of determination by women to establish themselves on the political map in Jordan.

Three weeks ago, the prognosis for Ms. Faisal's candidacy was rather poor. "My campaign started very modest," Ms. Faisal told the Jordan Times. The significant increase in support, which took place in the last couple

of weeks, can for a large part be attributed to the tireless efforts of a small group of volunteers. Ms. Faisal said.

Ms. Faisal projected herself not predominantly as a women's candidate but as a politician and an individual holding universally acceptable values. She thus managed to gain the confidence of both liberal women and men. According to Ms. Faisal, a slight majority of the votes cast for her were from women, but otherwise she had "all kinds of people" voting for her — Circassians as well as non-Circassians. "I got more male votes than some of the male candidates," she said.

She pointed to the fact that she won without a women's quota and despite the lack of party backing, capital and tribal support. This shows that there has been a drastic

change in people's attitudes over the past four years and can be taken as a sign of a greater political maturity, she said.

"People voted for her out of conviction," one of her campaigners said. The last rally Ms. Faisal held gathered an audience of some 1,500 people, another supporter told the Jordan Times. "We knew, then, that she was going to win," she added.

Ms. Faisal's triumph this year is a double victory, considering what happened to her when she stood for election in 1989. She was then targeted by Muslim fundamentalists who accused her of apostasy and asked the Islamic Court to order her divorce from her husband, the separation from her children, and gave immunity to anyone who shed her blood, while barring the media from publishing her articles. While

the court, in the end, dismissed the case as being outside its jurisdiction, Ms. Faisal lost the race.

Mr. Faisal, who is married to a doctor and is the mother of three, generally supports the two-year old Middle East peace process; she sees the need to work towards the institutionalisation of democracy through progressive legislation.

The newly-elected deputy is especially concerned about the promotion of human rights and justice. "This is what motivates me and what made me a politician," she said.

"I have always been interested in legislation," added Ms. Faisal, who holds a master's degree in English language and literature. "My father was a lawyer... and I was brought up in a legal atmosphere."

"Very early, I became aware of the difference between law and justice," she said, adding that "we have many laws which are unjust here in Jordan." Ms. Faisal said that she is well versed in the Sharia and pointed out that she has studied closely large parts of the legislation, including the passport law and the laws on citizenship. She wants to work for the introduction of laws which will safeguard political freedom, pointing specifically to the right to organise, and "all kinds of freedom."

Asked how she sees the possibility of introducing change through the Parliament, considering that many see the power allocated to the legislative branch as being insufficient, Ms. Faisal said that "there is not a lack of power, but a lack of understanding of the power of the parliamentarians." She said

that she would pave the way for a new parliamentary approach to affect change. "If I follow the old method, everything will be a failure again," she said.

Ms. Faisal has a long experience in public life. She worked for 18 years in television and used to present a series on women affairs. She is also a writer and a columnist. Through her political activity she has participated in numerous conferences and has often been exposed to the situation of being the only woman among men. Her status in the new Parliament does not scare her. "I have been working in this line for so many years," she said, adding that though she is fully aware of her role as a woman, she knows what burden her new role as a deputy will place upon her as an individual and politician.

هذه السنة الأولى



## Russia may still block new Libya sanctions — Kozyrev

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia is prepared to use its veto in a U.N. Security Council vote to prevent new sanctions being imposed against Libya over its harbouring of two alleged bombers, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Monday.

"We will use our right to veto if necessary to prevent the adoption of this resolution," he said, referring to a Security Council vote originally scheduled for Monday to impose fresh sanctions.

Earlier in the day the U.N. Security Council postponed the vote until Thursday, at the request of the Russian delegation, pending instructions from Moscow.

Russia "does not protect terrorists, but this resolution must take Russia's economic interests into account," Mr. Kozyrev said. "In particular Libya owes us substantial sums for goods which have already been delivered," he said.

The U.N. vote, designed to pressurise Libya into releasing two men suspected of involvement in planting bombs which brought down an aircraft over Lockerbie, Scotland, is backed

by France, Britain and the United States.

"Libya's debt must be paid. We will not accept the adoption of this resolution if it is not specified in the text that the new sanctions will not relieve Libya of its duty to pay its debt to Russia," Mr. Kozyrev said.

The council is to vote on a draft resolution drawn up by Britain, France and the United States which would add economic sanctions to the air and arms embargo already in force against Tripoli.

The United Nations is demanding that Tripoli hand over two men accused of taking part in the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

Tripoli must also cooperate with French authorities investigating the downing of a DC-10 over Niger in 1989, that killed 170 people, the United Nations says.

Sources on the Security Council said the Russian delegation had still not received the final approval from Moscow to vote for the resolution, although all indications are the

such authorisation will come.

A U.S. official expressed confidence Friday of at least the nine votes required for passage. The measures are now scheduled for a vote Thursday at 1630 GMT.

The sanctions go beyond an air and arms embargo in effect since April 1992. They include a freeze on financial assets of Libya currently in foreign bank accounts and a ban on its import of some oil equipment. Proceeds from future oil sales would not be touched.

Russia's objection, at one point prompting a veto threat, was that the sanctions could prevent the north African country from repaying a \$4 billion debt to Moscow.

But after winning concessions from the United States, France and Britain — the prime sponsors of the sanctions resolution, the Russians were supposed to go along.

The sanctions will not take effect immediately, but Dec. 1. That gives Libya more time to consider forcing the suspects to surrender for trial in the United States and Scotland, where charges are pending.

## Trouble brewing between Tehran and Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — France has rejected a reported Iranian demand for a senior opposition figure to be extradited, saying she was a political refugee here.

Mariam Rajavi, wife of the leader of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, has lived in France since 1983 as a political refugee, the foreign ministry said.

In Iran, the daily Ressalat reported that she had entered France 10 days ago, and said Iran had demanded that she be expelled "immediately."

The Mujahedeen is the main armed opposition group to Tehran. "Iran has firmly demanded that France immediately expel the wife of Masoud Rajavi and a group with her in Paris, or to extradite them" to Iran, said the paper, close to conservative elements in the Iranian government.

French foreign ministry spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said Mrs. Rajavi was in France "under the terms of her status as a political refugee, which was granted in 1983 and renewed in 1991."

"Given this status, Mrs. Rajavi is under a strict code of restraint, and her actions are monitored," she said, adding: "Iranian authorities have been told about this situation."

Rajavi press reports say Mrs. Rajavi has recently entered France following disputes within the Mujahedeen movement. Ressalat, without citing a source, said she had and others had entered France on false passports.

Ressalat said she was wanted by Iranian judicial authorities in connection with a number of attacks by the Mujahedeen in recent years.

Masoud Rajavi, who was granted political asylum in France in the 1980s, left this country in 1986 and has since been based in Baghdad.

The sources said the Iranian were also angry about French hospitality for Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who spent a week in Paris last month, officially for medical treatment.

A weekend visit to France by British author Salman Rushdie, who was condemned to death by the late Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, could also aggravate tensions between the two countries.

It was Mr. Rushdie's third visit to France in 1993. The author of the controversial novel "Satanic Verses" appeared at a writers' congress in Strasbourg on Monday for joint European action against what he called "Iranian terrorism."

Diplomatic sources said Iran was also irked by a report by a French judge last week which concluded that Iranian intelligence was behind the 1991 assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar in a Paris suburb.

A police source said Maryam Rajavi was using a false identity given to her for protection by French authorities.

But a Mujahedeen spokesman said she was openly visiting the movement's headquarters in Auvers-sur-Oise, north-west of Paris.

Around the time that Masoud Rajavi left France in 1986, pro-Iranian guerrillas were waging a bloody bombing campaign in the streets of Paris.

## Rabin to discuss advanced jets in U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will discuss a possible purchase of advanced F-15E interceptors as Israel's frontline warplane of the future in his forthcoming trip to Washington, a senior defence official said.

The United States has so far forbidden foreign countries from buying improved models of the F-15E.

A senior defence official said Mr. Rabin, who is to leave for the United States on Thursday, will discuss the purchase in the context of a wide package of military aid requests from Washington, Israel's main ally.

Israeli defence planners are in the final stages of a major air force evaluation that has centred until recently on General Dynamics' single-engine F-16 fighter and the dual-engine A/F-18, produced by McDonnell Douglas, also makers of the F-15.

Israel's planned purchase of dozens of frontline fighters has sparked keen competition between the two U.S. firms, whose sales have been hit hard by shrinking world arms budgets since the end of the cold war.

"Recently the (evaluation) panel has been weighing the purchase of the F-15E as an alternative to, or in combination with, the less-expensive

F-16 and A/F-18," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Oded Ben-Ami, a senior aide to Mr. Rabin, said "apparently the question of Washington granting permission for the sale in principle has been solved — the problem centres on the fact that the F-15E is a very expensive airplane."

The F-15E, a dual-engine all-weather interceptor, can carry large loads of bombs and missiles to distant targets — a significant advantage to Israeli planners.

"The Israeli air force has to decide if it wants fewer, more advanced planes, or a larger number of less sophisticated models," the defence official said.

Israel, at \$1.8 billion annually the largest single recipient of U.S. military aid, has long depended on American funds to buy U.S.-produced arms.

But Israeli officials privately fear Congress may cut aid levels in the future, and say assistance may be the decisive factor in the air force decision, expected within a few weeks.

State television said the defence establishment will ask for about 20 F-15Es at a cost of \$80 million each, along with dozens of used U.S. air force F-16S to be refitted in Israel.

## Hit list found on Algerian suspect

ALGIERS (AP) — Security forces found a hit list on a suspected Muslim fundamentalist gunman they wounded, allowing them to warn a journalist who was targeted, a newspaper has reported.

The list included a female reporter for the state-run radio station who was to be assassinated Sunday night at her home, said the daily Alger Republicain.

The reporter "was warned in advance by security forces," said the newspaper, which did not identify its sources but is known to be well-informed.

The paper did not reveal the names or number of those on the list, apparently found, on the gunman over the weekend.

Hit lists have been seen plastered on the walls of some fundamentalist-controlled mosques, naming members of the government's consultative council, journalists, public officials and other professionals linked to the government.

Eight journalists have been attacked — seven of them killed — since a fundamentalist insurgency began after the government canceled parliamentary elections in January 1992.

More than 2,000 people have died in the conflict between security forces and the fundamentalists, who were poised to win the elections and dislodge a government accused of corruption and mismanagement.

The raids were aimed "at seizing weapons and explosives held illegally and which could be used in criminal acts," he said in a press statement. The raids will continue in the next few days in order to "liquidate bases" of armed Islamic fundamentalists and to reduce crimes.

More than 20 people have died.

## Egyptian authorities arrest 393 militants

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities have arrested 393 Islamic militants and seized 2,000 firearms this month, a top interior ministry official reported.

They also seized 4,000 kilograms of explosives in 10 days of raids, according to the assistant interior minister for general security, General Nasar Zaher.

Fundamentalist militants blamed for the deaths of seven foreigners and the kidnapping of three French consular employees have threatened more attacks.

In a message given to one of the three French hostages who were freed, extremists warned all foreigners to leave Algeria within a month or risk "sudden death."

A moderate Islamic group on Monday argued against attacks on foreigners, who it said "should not pay for errors made by us or by those in power."

"They are here to help Algeria. We need them. Their security should be sacred for all," said Noureddine Boukrouh, president of the Algerian Party of Renewal.

Mr. Boukrouh said the only way out of the crisis is to announce presidential elections before the end of the year and to hold them by the end of 1994.

The military-backed government of Premier Redha Malek, whose mandate ends at the end of the year, has been at an impasse in talks with opposition groups.

The attacks on foreigners began in September and have prompted many to leave, dealing another blow to a government heavily dependent on foreign expertise and capital to develop its vital petroleum industry.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Israeli missiles hidden near Jerusalem'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Israel has a secret launch base for Jericho missiles, considered a key part of its nuclear force, hidden in a hill near Jerusalem, a U.S. magazine said Monday. Aviation Week and Space Technology reported in its weekly edition that the U.S. government had confirmed the existence of the launch base, located about 20 kilometres west of Jerusalem. "U.S. government officials confirmed the identification of the rocket launch facility, located about midway between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean coast," the magazine said, basing its report notably on images of the area made by Russian and French satellites. Israeli officials refused to comment, the magazine said. Aviation Week said the images showed enlargement of the facility began in 1989, when Israel began to field the Jericho 2 missile. The medium-range missile can strike targets at a distance of 1,248-1,440 kilometres. "The approximately 50 Jericho 2s supplement a potential nuclear force that also could include about 50 460-kilometres range Jericho 1S, 100 or more 115-kilometres U.S.-designed Lance missiles and F-4 and F-16 aircraft," the magazine said. "Some analysts contend Israel could have between 100 and 200 nuclear weapons," it said. Aviation week cited a classified Russian report, obtained by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which said Israel had stockpiled the most modern missile potential in the Near and Middle East region, most of it built locally.

### Two Israelis plead guilty to spraying blood

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two men seeking clemency for imprisoned Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu pleaded guilty Monday to the misdemeanor of destroying government property during a protest Aug. 7, U.S. District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin set Feb. 2 for the sentencing of John Bell of Washington, D.C., and Patrick Lity of Baltimore. Each faces up to one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine. They pleaded guilty to damaging a security fence during a protest at the Israeli embassy in which they sprayed the building with blood. Mr. Vanunu, who worked at Israel's Dimona nuclear facility, was convicted in 1986 of espionage and treason at a secret trial in Israel and put in solitary confinement. He gave a London newspaper information he said showed Israel had stockpiled at least 100 nuclear weapons, which would make it the world's sixth largest atomic arsenal. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied the claim. The defendants and Mr. Vanunu's brother, Meir, said in court Monday that the former technician is a victim of injustice who has been imprisoned for telling the truth.

### Sudan tribes hold reconciliation talks

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Dinka and Nuer tribesmen from southern Sudan have held a four-day reconciliation conference to settle long-standing disputes over pasture and water resources, it was reported. The daily Al Engaz Al Watani said the conference took place in Upper Nile state in the regional capital Malakal. The paper quoted the Upper Nile minister for political affairs, William Roi as saying that 85 intellectuals, tribal chiefs and dignitaries took part in the conference. Armed clashes between the two sides have occurred over land and water in Jekang, Lad, Akobo, Nasir and Waat regions. Mr. Roi said the conference appointed a committee to tour these areas to assess the problems and to report back to the conference in two weeks' time. Mr. Roi, the chairman said the conference had arranged for stolen cattle and property to be handed back and for "diyyas" — the local term for blood money — to be paid to relatives of those killed. He said pasture and water resources were apportioned to each tribe on a provisional basis pending a lasting settlement of the disputes. The Dinkas are considered the largest south Sudanese tribe and predominate in Ghazal and Bahari states. The Nuer is the dominant tribe in Upper Nile. The leader of the mainstream rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) John Garang is a Dinka. Riak Machar, a Nuer, heads a breakaway SPLA faction.

### Iran urges end to Afghan fighting

NICOSIA (R) — Iran urged all Afghan groups on Monday to halt fighting around the capital Kabul and seek a peaceful settlement of their disputes, its IRNA news agency reported. A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by IRNA, expressed concern about fighting near Kabul and said Iran urgently recommended all parties halt clashes as soon as possible. Forces loyal to Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar are fighting supporters of President Burhanuddin Rabbani. Residents said at least 200 people, mainly civilians, had been killed or injured since Mr. Hekmatyar's hardline Hezb-e-Islami forces began a drive northward up the Tagob valley last Monday.

### Berri, Geagea hold unprecedented talks

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri had an unprecedented meeting Monday with the former head of the disbanded Christian Lebanese Forces militia, Samir Geagea. A spokesman for Mr. Berri said the evening meeting, at Mr. Berri's home in the Barbur neighbourhood of west Beirut, lasted 90 minutes. The two men, arch-rivals during Lebanon's civil war, discussed the situation in Lebanon, he said. He did not elaborate. It was the first ever meeting between Mr. Berri, a Muslim Shiite with close ties to Syria, and Dr. Geagea, a Christian Maronite whose Lebanese Forces bitterly fought Syria's military deployment in Lebanon. Dr. Geagea has been living a recluse in the mountain village of Ghedra; north of Beirut, since the end of the war in 1990 where he has set up a fortified headquarters. He emerges rarely from his village. But he visited Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri on several occasions in west Beirut, where he also called on President Elias Hrawi. One of Mr. Berri's close advisors Mohammad Beydoun and Dr. Geagea's aide Tufic Hindi have meanwhile had contacts since 1990 apparently aimed at setting up a dialogue between the two leaders.

## Ciller takes tough stance on rebels

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has accused Turkey's neighbours of supporting the Kurdish rebellion in a tough statement designed to preserve the unity of her coalition government.

Her toughened stance against the rebels and those who support them came as Turkey was to debate whether to renew the state of emergency in the Kurdish-majority southeast due to expire on Nov. 19.

In an interview published Monday in the daily Turkish paper Sabah, Ms. Ciller said Syria would cooperate with the Turkey in its battle against rebels from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

She said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in a message to her had "promised to cooperate against the PKK which he termed 'terrorists'."

Mr. Assad's message was relayed to Ms. Ciller by a Turkish delegation which visited Damascus last week, carrying a message from the Turkish premier on bilateral relations.

She told Sabah that the Turkish and Syrian foreign ministers would meet as soon as possible, and that the Syrians had promised various kinds of help.

When she was elected Ms. Ciller presented herself as someone who understood the problems of the Kurdish population, promising aid and showing she was in favour of Kurd television station.

But last week Ms. Ciller abandoned all pretence of conciliation towards the Kurds, who launched an armed rebellion for independence in 1984.

She has threatened the rebels with reinforced measures by Turkish security forces, in a move which may appease the extreme nationalists in her True Path Party before her mandate and that of her coalition government is due to be renewed on Nov. 21, political pundits say.

She also appears to be laying down conditions to the West under which Turkey will allow a multinational force to continue to be based in the north of the country to monitor Iraq after December, diplomatic sources said in Ankara.

"If they are against the PKK let them prove it," she told Sabah.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Burudjerdi is due Thursday in Ankara for talks which will cover all bilateral and regional problems, the Turkish foreign ministry said.

Meanwhile Turkish authorities announced Monday that 34 rebels were killed in two separate operations in Turkey and northern Iraq.

Five "terrorists" — the official term for armed PKK militants — were killed during an operation Saturday, and Sunday in northern Iraq, following information that an attack was planned on a police station in the border town of Cukurca, in the Hakkari district.

Authorities in Diyarbakir charged with coordinating the Turkish struggle against the PKK also said in a statement Monday some 26 rebels including five women from a militant armed PKK group were killed overnight in clashes close to Silopi, in the Sirnak province bordering Syria and Iraq.

Three other Kurdish rebels were killed in the Mus region and several caves filled with supplies and arms were destroyed.

## Izzeddine Al Qassem grave sparks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Revered bones versus roadbuilders have provoked clashes before, but the fight brewing Monday brought together an uncommon cast of Muslims, rights groups and a small-town mayor with a new retinue of bodyguards.

The graveyard holding Izzeddine Al Qassem, who struggled against the British and the Jews before Israel was founded, lies in the path of an attempt to widen a main artery that descends out of the suburbs above the Mediterranean port of Haifa.

Qassem, an advocate of the armed struggle against the British and the Jews, was killed in a 1930s shootout with British soldiers.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, named its vigilante squads after Qassem. The group, opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel peace accord, has claimed responsibility for killing several Israeli civilians and soldiers since the

accord was signed Sept. 13. Mayor David Ammar of Neshar, the town where the graveyard lies, said Monday that police told him he had been threatened by Islamic activists, but the roadwork would proceed. The Israeli daily Davar said Hamas issued the threats in a leaflet circulated in the occupied Gaza Strip recently.

"I'll do it without considering the threats," Mr. Ammar told the Associated Press.

Police are guarding Ammar and his home, said Haifa's district police commander, Yaakov Borowski. "We are taking this very seriously," Mr. Borowski said.

In come the civil rights activists.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel asked the religious affairs ministry last week to declare the sheikh's grave a holy site. Such a designation would automatically prevent the cemetery from being moved.

Fathi Furani, head of the Association for the Protection of Holy Places, demanded that the road be moved to spare the cemetery.

"If this had happened to a Jewish cemetery anywhere in the world, the people of Israel would have risen up. Therefore, I'm asking David Ammar to make the proper gesture," Mr. Furani said.

## Renovations planned on Arafat HQ

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians plan a \$1.6 million renovation of a dilapidated Jericho hotel to serve as headquarters for Yasser Arafat and his entourage, officials said Monday. The designs have been completed and the interior walls will start coming down Nov. 15 to renovate the Hisham Palace Hotel completely before Mr. Arafat's expected January arrival, Palestinian officials said.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:50	Only
18:00	Le Vagabond Des Mers
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	News in Arabic
20:30	Head of the Class
21:10	Documentary — "Donana: The Last Resort"
22:00	News in English
PRAYER TIMES	
06:36	Fajr
07:03	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19	Dhuhr
14:18	'Asr
16:44	Maghrib
18:03	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 623490	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	

623541	Anglican Church Tel. 630851	Tel.
628543	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
628543	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 711331	
628543	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711331	
625256	Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
625256	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625256	
604195	German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 604195	
654932	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
675691	Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression will affect the Kingdom in the evening. Clouds will gradually appear and there will be a chance of scattered showers in the northern areas which gradually spread to all parts of the country. There will be a gradual drop in temperatures, and winds will be northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman ..... 12/22

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Aqaba	
17:28	Deserts
9:24	Jordan Valley
16:28	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 30, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamil Tarif	794710
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim	885446
Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas	799154
Dr. Yousef Rashad	960301
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordwys pharmacy	776336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Naironki pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Shawabani pharmacy	637660
Naironki pharmacy	637672
Najib pharmacy	847832
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi	(—)
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
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## Profiles of newly elected members of 12th Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Saleh Hammad Tuesday announced the results of the general elections held in Jordan Monday, noting that the total number of registered voters was 1,501,972, of whom 820,116 cast ballots.

The voters, he said, accounted for 68.15 per cent of the number of citizens who collected their voting cards.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the government had provided all possible facilities for the success of the election process.

Mr. Hammad thanked the various organisations and government departments for their cooperation and the voters who shouldered their national responsibility and exercised their right to vote.

Following are brief profiles of 40 of the newly-elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament. The rest will appear in tomorrow's issue.

\* Denotes freshman members.

### Abdul Aziz Jabr (IAF)

First District, Amman

Born in Hatta, near Falouja in occupied Palestine in 1932, obtained his B.A. in Islamic law from Damascus University and served as a teacher with the Ministry of Education until 1982 when he retired.



### Hammad Abu Jamous (Mustakbal)\*

First District, Amman

Born in Amman. Finished school in 1958 and obtained his degree in engineering from the United Kingdom in 1961. He served in several private sector posts.



### Abdul Munem Abu Zant (IAF)

Second District, Amman

Born in 1935, studied Islamic Sharia at Al Azhar University in Egypt where he obtained his B.A. He received his master's degree in Islamic law from Pakistan.



### Hamzeh Mansour (IAF)

Second District, Amman

Born in Al Mansi Haifa district in occupied Palestine in 1944, finished his secondary education in Irbid and graduated from Huwara Community College and later from Beirut Arab University in 1976 in Arabic language. He obtained a masters degree in education from the University of Jordan in 1984. He worked as a school teacher and head teacher at the Ministry of Education schools from 1965 until 1989.



### Mohammad Ahmad Al Thuweib (Independent)\*

Second District, Amman

Born in Taamreh near Bethlehem in 1941, finished secondary education in Bethlehem in 1960, obtained a B.A. in arts from Beirut Arab University in 1967, and higher studies diploma at the University of Jordan 1984. He worked as a teacher for 24 years. He served as a member of the Lower House of Parliament between 1984 and 1988.



### Taher Al Masri (Independent)

Third District, Amman

Born in Nablus, in the West Bank, in 1942, and obtained his secondary school certificate from Al Najah Secondary School. Received his B.A. from Texas University, U.S., in 1965. He served in senior government posts, including prime minister. He was a member of Parliament in 1973 and served twice as minister of foreign affairs.



### Ali Abu Ragheb (Independent)\*

Third District, Amman

Born in Amman in 1946, and obtained his B.Sc. in civil engineering from the United States in 1967. He served in several posts since 1967, including positions at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Amman Municipality. He was also president of the Contractors Association between 1986 and 1990. He served as minister of industry and trade, supply and energy and mineral resources between 1991 and 1993.



### Toujan Faisal (Independent)\*

Third District

Born in Amman in 1948, obtained her B.A. in English from the University of Jordan in 1970, and her M.A., also from the University of Jordan, in 1990. She worked at Jordan Television as a producer and broadcaster of cultural programmes, then for the Ministry of Social Development and Noor Al Hussein Foundation. She is a columnist for Shihan Arabic weekly.



### Mohammad Hneiti (Independent)\*

Fourth District, Amman

Born in Abu Alanda in 1934, he studied in Amman and obtained his B.A. from Baghdad University. He was most recently mayor of Abu Alanda.

### Hamam Saeed (IAF)

Fifth District, Amman

Born in Kafer Race, West Bank, in 1944, and completed secondary school in Zarqa in 1962. He received an Islamic Sharia degree from Damascus University in 1966. He was a teacher at the Islamic College in Amman until 1971. He obtained his master's degree in Hadith from Al Azhar University in 1974 and his doctorate in Hadith also from Al Azhar in 1979. He received a degree in comparative religions from Temple University in the U.S. in 1979 and has written many books and articles on Islam.

### Mifteh Al Lawzi (Independent)\*

Fifth District, Amman

Born in 1935, he completed his schooling until the seventh grade. He became mayor of Jubeiha between 1963 and 1986. He was member of the National Consultative Council in 1980.

### Dr. Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh\*

Sixth District, Madaba

Born in Jedeideh in 1950, he obtained his doctorate in medicine in Moscow in 1975. He has worked in private practice as a physician.

### Jamal Khreisheh (Independent)

Seventh District

Born in Muwaqqar in 1938 and served in the Armed Forces until his retirement as brigadier. He served in several military posts, including assistant to the Armed Forces inspector general. He was appointed member of the Senate and served as member of the previous Parliament, representing the central bedouins. He served as minister of state in the Taher Al Masri government of 1991 and later in the Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker government.

### Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben (Independent)

Central Bedouins

Born in 1943. He holds a B.Sc. in medicine and held several government posts, including physician at Al Bashir Hospital and at Madaba Health Centre. He also served as minister of municipal and rural affairs and minister of health in 1989.

### Ahmad Kofahi (IAF)

Irbid District

Born in Irbid in 1939, obtained his B.A. in Islamic law from Damascus University and masters and doctorate degrees in Sharia from Al Azhar University. He worked as a teacher for the Ministry of Education and lecturer at Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan.

### Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh (Yaqatheh Party)

Irbid District

Born in Sarih in 1939, he holds a B.Sc. in pharmacy from the American University of Beirut. He served with the health ministry in several posts and later became minister of communications in 1976, minister of health in 1979 and mayor of Amman until 1989.

### Aref Bataineh (Independent)\*

Irbid District

Born in Barha near Irbid in 1931, he was educated at Beir Zeit University and obtained a diploma in science from the American University of Beirut. He received a B.Sc. in medicine from London University in 1960. Since then, he worked with the Jordanian Armed Forces, and in 1980 he was appointed director of the Al Hussein Medical Centre. In 1990, he became director of the Royal Medical Services and later became minister of health in the Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker government.

### Dr. Saleh Ishodeh (Independent)\*

Irbid District

Born in Irbid in 1940, he completed his elementary school in Irbid and his secondary school in Egypt where he got a B.Sc. in engineering in 1970. In 1975 he worked as a teacher at an engineering college in Germany and obtained his doctorate in Germany in 1978. He worked for the private sector from 1975 until he assumed a ministerial post. He was minister of youth in the government of Zeid Ben Shaker in 1991.

### Dr. Abdul Raouf Tashraf (Independent)

Irbid District

Born in Irbid in 1939, he obtained his B.A. in medicine from Damascus University. He worked for the Jordanian Armed Forces and as a general practitioner in Irbid with Irbid Municipality before he was elected as mayor of Irbid several times. He held several ministerial posts, including minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment in 1991.

### Abdul Rafeh 'Awar (IAF)

Irbid District

Born in Zarqa near Irbid in 1939, he obtained a B.A. in Islamic law from Damascus University in 1966. He worked as director of research and director of preaching at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Islamic Affairs. He taught in several universities.

### Nader Abu Al Ghhar (Independent)\*

Irbid District

Born in Hama in 1941, he completed his schooling at Hama, Ramallah and Amman. He holds a medical degree from Italian Universities and served as head of the surgery section at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. He served in the 12th Lower House of Parliament.

### Bassam Haddadin (IAF)

Irbid District

Born in Zarqa in 1954, obtained his doctorate in Islamic law from Mohammad Ben Saud University in Riyadh in 1984. He served as a teacher at Riyadh University between 1976 and 1984, and as at the Islamic College at the University of Jordan in 1984 and as mosque preacher in Zarqa.

### Yusef Al-Jarrah (IAF)

Irbid District

Born in Zarqa near Irbid, in occupied Palestine. He worked as a mosque preacher in the Ministry of Islamic Affairs between 1984 and 1990.

### Mohammad Al Haj (IAF)

Zarqa District

Born in Jenin in 1951, finished high school in Nablus. He obtained his B.A. at the Sharia College at the University of Jordan, his masters degree in Islamic religion from Riyadh and a doctorate from Mohammad Ben Saud University in Riyadh. He worked as a teacher in Zarqa between 1975 and 1978. He was a lecturer at the University of Jordan between 1981 and 1989.



### Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammo (Independent)

Zarqa District

Born in Zarqa in 1922, studied in Zarqa, Sweileh and Salt. He graduated from Azhar University in 1952 and worked as a mosque preacher. He was elected to Parliament several times.



### Bassam Haddadin (HASHD)

Zarqa District

Born in Ma'in, south of Madaba, completed his secondary education in Zarqa. He was one of the leaders of the Jordanian Students Movement while studying abroad (1970-76).



### Dr. Abdullah Akaileh (IAF)

Tafleh District

Born in Aimah in Tafleh governorate, he attended secondary school in Tulkarem in the West Bank and received a B.A. in management from the University of Jordan in 1975. He got his masters from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1978 and his doctorate in management from USC in 1982. He served as minister of education.



### Mohammad Aweidah (IAF)\*

Balqa District

Born in Faloujeh in 1947, he obtained a B.A. in Sharia from the University of Jordan in 1969 and M.A. and doctorate degrees from Azhar University in 1973. He worked as a teacher for the Ministry of Education between 1969 and 1976. Since 1970, he worked as a professor of Sharia at the University of Jordan.



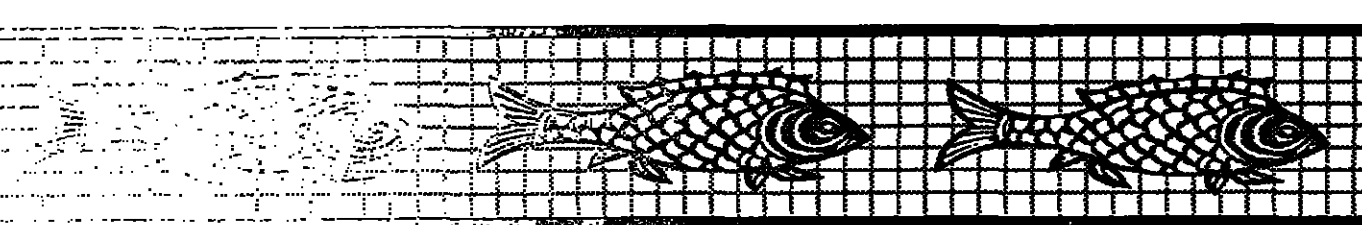
### Hashem Dabbas (Independent)\*

Balqa District

Born in Salt, obtained his B.A. in commerce from Cairo University and masters and doctorate degrees from the U.S. in 1963. He served as director of the Department of Statistics in 1970 and later as Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general until 1980. He became head of the Audit Bureau.



(Continued on page 5)



## FISH FROM THE SEA

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### AL WALIMA FRESH

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by a group of artists at Orfali Art Gallery (telephone 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'idi Al Ka'bi at Alla Art Gallery (9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloo at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Abu Zraiq entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahabneh and Basal Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural

### Centre.

### SPORTS ROUND-UP

- ★ A one-hour programme featuring a condensed version of the most popular football games of the week with live play announcement at the American Center at 7 p.m.

### FILMS

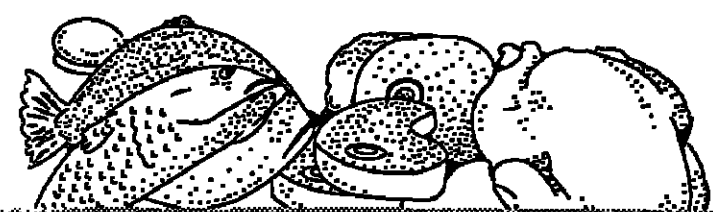
- ★ Feature film entitled "Jane Eyre - Part 2" at the Council at 7:00 p.m. (12 minutes)

### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Role of the Traditional Engineering in Heritage Conservation" by the Cultural Resources Management team from the Department of Antiquities at the Jordan Engineers' Association at 7 p.m.

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**OPENING THURSDAY**



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1975

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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## Focus on real issue

THE FOCUS on the performance of the Islamic Action Front in Monday's parliamentary elections as the main issue is slightly out of focus since there was more to the 1993 campaign than just to gauge the strength or weakness of any single political party. True the Islamists did worse this time than in 1989, which led to the unnecessary interpretation that the loss meant a decisive blow to their political clout. As a matter of fact, what any political party achieved Monday including the front is perhaps closer to their real strength than what was manifested in the last elections for the Lower House of Parliament.

The unscientific basis upon which the 1989 elections were held contributed to a lopsided show of parliamentary prowess. The previous elections were held without the benefit of political parties with the exception of the Islamists which had capitalised on the fact that they operated the only viable and organised political party in that period. Then there was the issue of the one-person, multiple-votes scheme that characterised the old election law, something that provided multiple windows of opportunities to some candidates to secure a place for themselves in the House, not necessarily commensurate with their popular support. A major correction took place this year when a different piece of legislation was adopted. The real strength of candidates and the political groupings to which they belong could only be tested under the new criteria, even though the new law itself is flawed and needs to be changed by the 12th Parliament.

But this is neither the primary issue nor the principal message filtering out of the elections. Something greater and more profound emerged from the way Jordanians cast their votes in the free and orderly elections. As His Majesty King Hussein commented in his press conference in the wake of the official declaration of the results of the elections, Jordan does not operate on the basis of cooperating with some political currents and the exclusion of others. This country belongs to all Jordanians no matter what their political ideology is.

Jordanians have made their choice and clearly opted for moderation and centrist policies. This choice must be given a chance to vindicate itself in the course of the next four years.

There is a new beginning in the country and how Jordanians and other factors impact on the new situation may very well seal the future of pluralistic democracy in Jordan and elsewhere in the region for many decades to come. Everybody has a stake in the success of the new chapter in Jordan's history because the stakes have wider proportions and implications than the immediate Jordanian theatre. Let's hope that the upcoming weeks and months would pave the way for a successful four years of parliamentary life in the Kingdom.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR Tuesday said that Jordan achieved success through the parliamentary elections which proved the Jordanians and their country totally oriented towards democracy. The elections were carried out in total freedom and the results reflected the free and fair handling of the process, thanks to the endeavours of the government and the awareness of the public, said the daily. We are today more proud of our country than ever before and take pride in our leader and our people who are keen on enhancing the march of democracy and freedom and respect for human rights, added the paper. The paper said that congratulations should go not only to those who won in the elections and will sit in Parliament for the next four years, but rather to all the Jordanian people who helped make the democratic march a real success in this country. The paper said that thanks to the voters and their real determination to contribute to the success of their country's democratic march the results were so clear and so fair to all sectors and all candidates. With the success of the elections, added the daily, Jordan is being looked on by other Arab countries with more respect and more admiration.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday said that the Jewish settlers' acts of terrorism directed at Arab people of Palestine are clear indications that the PLO-Israeli deal struck on Sept. 13, was built on sand rather than on solid rock. Saidah Abdu said that the settlers are going on a rampage every day, burning and destroying Arab homes and assaulting Palestinian citizens with help and support from the Israeli armed forces. The writer said that these acts of violence raise a big question mark concerning the possibility of peaceful co-existence between the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples, especially with the continued Jewish settlers living amidst the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Israeli government and the PLO leadership are called on to find a lasting settlement and not a temporary one.

## Voter apathy not only reason for 32 per cent abstention

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians largely lived up to expectations by registering a turnout of 68 per cent in Monday's elections to produce a Parliament dominated by traditionally loyalist tribal leaders and centrists.

Three distinct reasons were seen behind the high turnout: — Those who were apathetic to the November 1989 elections realised that the turn that Jordan took four years ago towards democratisation is irreversible and, as a result, an awareness that each vote is precious and should not be wasted away.

— Many of the candidates were from medium-sized clans and families who applied their own mathematics and reached the conclusion that the one-person, one-vote system favoured candidates with an assured minimum number of votes. Subsequently, many Jordanians were persuaded not only to go through the exercise of registering and collecting voting cards but also to actually exercise their right to vote because of close family or clan links or social ties with the candidate.

— Another reason cited by most observers was the call that His Majesty King Hussein issued Saturday on all voters to exercise their right to vote as an unshirkable national duty.

The call was seen to have

dislodged thousands from their apathy regarding voting, even though they had collected their voting cards, particularly in the traditionally loyalist tribal areas.

On the other hand, reasons for the abstention of the 32 per cent from the voting process included: — Many families registered the names of all its members included in the family registration book and collected voting cards although some of the voters were not present in the country.

— Many voters were simply not interested in voting although their families did register them as voters and collected their cards.

— Intentional "disappearance" of voting cards done by candidates who sought to preempt their rivals gaining votes. The tactic is mostly based on an assessment of the concerned voters' preference and, in many cases, candidates were accused of simply hiding the cards of those whose votes were not assured for them.

As one election observer put it, it is a "law of elimination — a vote denied to a rival is a vote gained by me."

The net picture that emerges after adjusting the possible additions and subtractions based on these considerations would indicate that voter apathy could not be directly blamed for the entire 32 per cent abstention.

Figures released by the

Ministry of Interior after polls closed on time at 7 p.m., following 12 hours of voting in the 20 electoral districts, showed that 821,000 of the 1,203 million voters who had collected the voting cards had cast their ballots in the Kingdom's first multi-party elections in nearly four decades.

The total number of registered voters in the Kingdom, from among the 3.2 million population in 1989, was 1.51 million while the total number of eligible voters — all those above the age of 19 — was around 1.8 million before excluding members of the security forces who are not allowed to vote.

The figures for the elections to the 12th Parliament of Jordan could be compared to those of 1989, the Kingdom's first general elections in 22 years:

Total population: four million; total number of Jordanians above the voting age: 1.9 million; registered voters: 1.51 million; voters who collected their voting cards: 1,203 million; final turnout on election day: 821,000.

The nearly 70 per cent turnout proved out the finding of a study conducted early this year by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan.

That poll also found that a majority of voters would vote for candidates seen as capable of delivering services and addressing the infrastructural needs of their con-



stituencies rather than those raising lofty political slogans.

The voting process had a slow start, with a depressing 45 per cent reported by 3 p.m., prompting the King, during a round of the election centres and facilities, to express hope that "those who have not cast their ballots for some reason would move immediately."

Complaints were heard from some voters that they were not allowed to vote since they were registered in more than one voting district. But polling officials later said they were instructed to allow voters with dual registration

to cast their ballots as long as they voted only once.

Earlier, officials had said that 70,000 names appeared in more than one constituency in the final voters list, but that the Ministry of Interior had informed polling officials of the duplication.

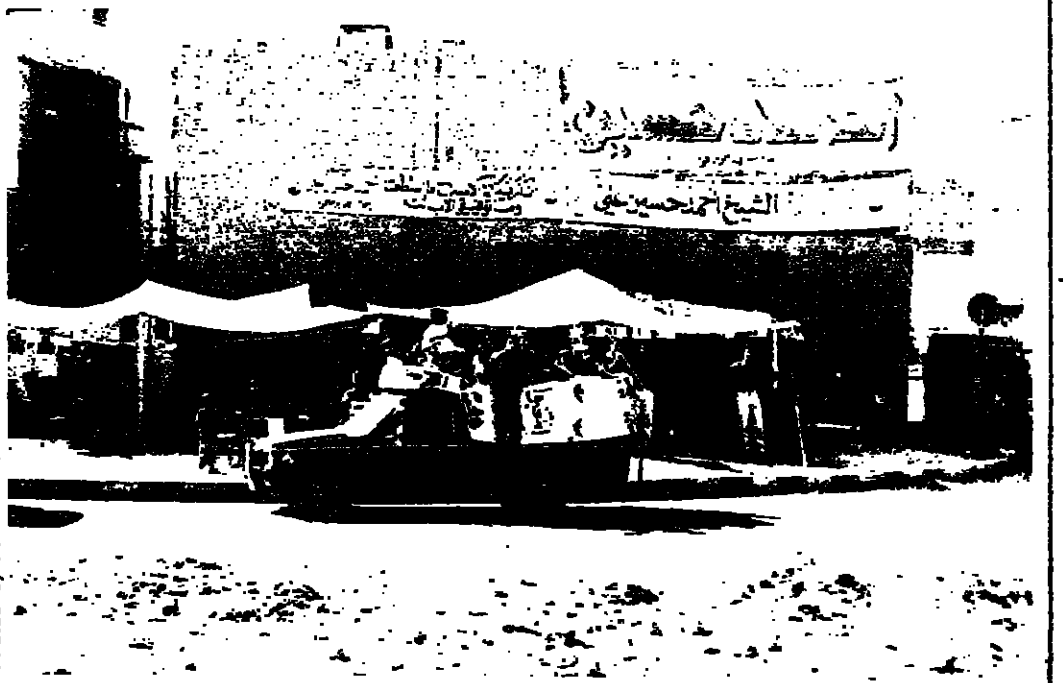
Other voters complained that they were denied of their right to vote because unknown elements had collected their voting cards without their knowledge or consent. Some voters said polling officials refused to allow them to vote even though their names were on the list but they did not have their

voting cards. Ministry of Interior sources had said that some groups were buying voting cards and destroying them, but added that the ministry was under instruction to issue new voting cards to those who could not locate the document.

A handful of deputies in the 11th Parliament had sought to legislate mandatory voting for all eligible voters, as is the case in several countries. But the move was killed by other legislators who argued that it would be undemocratic since it meant "imposing an obligation" on the voters.



Photos by Rana Hussein



## Welcome winds of change are blowing over Jordan

By Albert Mokhiber

Having just flown into Amman Monday night with a delegation from the United States, we were able to witness the historic restoration of free multi-party elections in Amman.

I was also able to watch the election results which were updated live all through the night, on Jordan Television.

Many Americans, especially those of us of Arab ancestry, have been watching with a great deal of anticipation the democratic reforms that have begun in Jordan and to varying degrees in other Arab nations. Thus, the multi-party elections held on Monday were not only a major step forward for Jordanians, but for all Arabs. Hopefully, these wel-

come winds of change will blow across the region, opening a new era of political rights and opportunities.

Of course, one must be careful not to confuse the mere existence of elections with democracy. Many elections are held in nations which have very little, if any, real democracy. There is no pure definition of what a democracy must be,

and western examples are neither perfect nor exclusive models.

Democracy for the most part is about institutions. Independent branches of government, citizen groups, a free press, human rights organisations, political and national rights are but a few of the essential organs and guarantees of democratic states. How they evolve and are established is a question for each society to answer.

Ironically, while the Jordanian press impartially reported on the election results, CNN, the omnipresent reminder of America, focused with apparent glee on the "defeat of Muslim fundamentalists" rather than on the victory of Jordanian democracy for all its citizens. Little attention was paid to the hundreds of candidates, dozens of parties, including women and minorities, running for elections.

Not unlike most voters throughout the world, the Jordanian electorate placed more emphasis on local issues than on foreign policy. Rather than just a referendum on the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the voters cast their ballots on issues of economics, jobs,

education and various social issues.

The newly-elected Jordanian politicians will soon learn what most elected officials learn, namely that campaign promises which lead to electoral victory will soon lead to electoral defeat if not kept. The finality of public accountability is perhaps the most sobering of all democratic realities for

those elected and the most important recourse for those who elect. Perhaps our return trip to Jordan will find these new and wonderful concerns shared by more in the region.

The writer is president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.





## Profiles of parliamentarians

(Continued from page 3)

### Abdullah Ensour (Independent) Balqa District

Born in Salt in 1939, obtained his B.Sc. from the American University of Beirut, a masters from Wayne State University in 1965 and a doctorate in human resources planning from Sorbonne University in Paris. He served as director general of the Budget Department, director of Income Tax Department and in several ministerial posts.

### Samir Kawar (Independent) Balqa District

Born in Salt in 1934, he received his masters degree in agricultural equipment design from Texas University. He worked as an engineer in Deir Alla Agricultural Project and in the phosphate mines in Al Hassa. He became minister of water and irrigation in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

### Fawzi Tuaima (Independent) Balqa District

Born in Fuheis in 1945, he holds a B.A. in arts from the University of Jordan and masters and doctorate degrees in psychology from the United States.

### Mansour Ben Tarif (Independent)\* Karak District

Born in Madaba in 1939, obtained a B.A. in agriculture in 1961 from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and an M.A. in economics in 1963 also from AUB. He served with the Agricultural Credit Corporation from 1963 until 1966, then as deputy director of the corporation until 1982. He served at the Ministry of Post and Communications.

### Ahmad Kasasbeh (IAF)\* Karak District

Born in Karak in 1944, he obtained a B.A. in law from Beirut Arab University and worked in the Ports Corporation and the Railway Corporation.

### Jamal Sarairah (Independent) Karak District

Born in Al Hashemieh, near Karak in 1954, he finished his schooling in Karak in 1971 and obtained his B.A. from Kuwait University in 1976; he worked for ARAMCO from 1980 until 1983, and the Tapline Company until 1989. He served as minister of post and communications in the governments of Mudar Badran and Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

### Awad Khleifat (Independent)\* Ma'an District

Born in Wadi Mousa in 1945, he obtained a B.A. in history from the University of Jordan in 1967, and a doctorate from London University in 1973. He worked as chairman of the University of Jordan's History Department before becoming Yarmouk University vice president and later Muta University President and minister of youth. He became minister of higher education in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in 1991.

### Abdul Karim Al Kabariti (Independent) Ma'an District

Born in Amman in 1949, he finished school there and studied geological engineering at the American University of Beirut. He obtained a B.A. from St. Edwards University in Texas, U.S., and served in several private sector firms. He became minister of labour in the government of Mudar Badran in 1989 and in 1990.

### Abdul Karim Al Dughmi (Independent) Mafraq District

Born in Mafraq in 1955, he completed his schooling in 1973, and obtained a B.A. in law in 1977. He worked as a lawyer since his graduation and became minister of labour in the government of Mudar Badran in 1989.

### Abdullah Akhu Irsheideh (Independent)\* Mafraq District

Born in Rahab, near Mafraq in 1929, finished his secondary schooling in Amman and obtained a B.A. in law from Damascus University. He served in several administrative posts between 1965 and 1986 and became district governor at the Ministry of Interior in 1968. He served in 1978 as a member of the National Consultative Council.

### Saad Hayel Al Sour (Independent) Northern Bedouins

Born in 1947, he obtained his B.A. in civil engineering from Riyadh University in 1970, and worked for Amman Municipality and in several Saudi Arabian companies until 1981. He became a member of the National Consultative Council. He served as minister of water and irrigation in the Mudar Badran government of 1989 and as minister of public works and housing in the Tahir Al Masi government of 1991, and later in the 1991 government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

## Issues will change in House

(Continued from page 1)

with in facing a House where 23 seats were filled by the Brotherhood, 10 by its supporters and many others by deputies who were coattailed by it are expected to be replaced by having to face "independent deputies" with different priorities and concerns.

"I think the coming House will be very lively," said one observer. With so many new faces and new priorities, observers believe the House will be as "colourful" as its predecessor. Only the issues will undergo change, they say.

## Breakdown of parties in new Parliament

### The Islamic Action Front

Abdul Aziz Jabr (Amman's First District)  
Abdul Munem Abu Zant (Amman's Second District)  
Hamzeh Mansour (Second District)  
Ibrahim Zeid Keilani (Amman's Third District)  
Hamam Saeed (Amman's Fifth District)  
Ahmad Kasasbeh (Karak)  
Suleiman Al Saad Rimoni (Jerash)  
Daifallah Al Momani (Ajloun)  
Mohammad Oweida (Balqa)  
Badr Riasi (Ma'an, Aqaba)  
Bassam Omoush (Zarqa)  
Mohammad Al Haj (Zarqa)  
Deeb Anis (Zarqa)  
Abdullah Akaleh (Tafilah)  
Ahmad Kofahi (Irbid)  
Abdul Rahim Akour (Irbid)

### Independent Islamists

Deeb Hattab (First District)  
Abdul Majid Aqtash (Amman's Sixth District, Madaba)  
Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat (Irbid)  
Jamal Sarairah (Karak)  
Mahmoud Hweimel (Karak)

### Leftists

Bassam Haddadin, Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd) (Zarqa, Christian seat)  
Khalil Haddadin, the Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party (pro-Iraq) (Third District, Christian seat)  
Abdul Hafez Shekanbeh (independent leftist) (Sixth District)  
Abdul Karim Dughmi (independent leftist) (Mafraq)  
Mohammad Dawoudieh (independent pan-Arab leftist) (Tafilah)  
Samir Habashneh (independent pan-Arab leftist) (Karak)  
Mustafah Shneikat (the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party) (Balqa)

### Centrist parties

Abdul Hadi Al Majali (Ahd Party) (Karak)  
Hamad Abu Jamous (Al Mustaqbal Party) (First District)  
Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh (Al Yaqateh Party) (Irbid)

The rest are independents

## IAF's 'poor' showing due to many factors

(Continued from page 1)

message which tended to address the larger than daily life concerns of the common citizen.

Second, which is actually what hurt the front most, is the power struggle between its prominent personalities, and between its moderates and hawks, which affected their campaign strategy at its inception and forced it to field more candidates than it could realistically support in the different districts, the analysts said.

Third, the Islamists lost ground by its sluggish start in the election campaign. The front was expecting the government to postpone elections until after the Palestinians have held their own elections for the legislative council in the occupied territories. The front, therefore, lost valuable time in preparing better for the campaign, just like other political groups in the country did, according to the analysts.

Drawing up their candidates' list on the assumption that the elections would be postponed, the IAF tried to pacify all the conflicting forces within it by naming as many candidates as possible. When the King announced that the elections were to be held on time, the front simply could not withdraw its list, which also damaged its chances.

The high number of candidates reflected especially negatively in areas where the voting strength of the front's constituents alone could not guarantee their success. In these areas, the front had to depend on the added weight of the candidates' tribal base or voter constituency, a policy that sometimes backfired.

The front failed, analysts also believe, in estimating the

"outside votes" that their candidates could win in districts where strong tribal sentiments largely determined the results in the elections.

This was especially evident in the Balqa district where Dr. Arabiyat did not receive strong support even from his own big family "because he became a symbol for the front and not the Arabiyats."

This was also the case in Amman's Fifth District, usually identified as an Islamist hawk's stronghold, where Mr. Abu Fares lost to a fellow IAF candidate and three strong tribal-based candidates. His dependence on a "Palestinian" base did not work, because, according to sources in that district, "Jordanians of Palestinian origin placed their weight behind a tribal candidate who

they felt was closer to them than Mr. Abu Fares."

Some analysts believe that this pattern of finding alternatives to Islamist deputies whether in tribal areas or Palestinian-dominated areas, was also an "indication of emerging social powers" which want to find their place in the political scene alongside the Islamists.

The analysts point to the Balqa camp, an area that holds three distinctly different groups, as an example of the new mood among constituents.

"The Baqaa refugee camp, which used to be a vote bank for the Salt residents, elected its own two deputies — one of them a headline Islamist — to represent its interests," an analyst observed. In that same district, the Jordan Valley, which also usually voted

in support of the city candidates, "chose its own deputy to Parliament."

"The Islamists can no longer bank on the support of conservatives outside its ranks," the analyst said.

Parallel to these different forces, and perhaps another catalyst that undermined the front's strength, was the growing belief among voters that the front "is a political body" that can be legitimately challenged. "People and politicians no longer feared their 'religious' power after four years in Parliament and even joining a coalition with one government," one observer said. "Before 1989, the Brotherhood was considered a sacred cow by many. But after watching their performance in Parliament, (the Islamists) looked just like any other political parties."



**Instituto  
Cervantes**

CONVOCA PARA SU SINSTITUTO EN AMMAN, BEIRUT Y DAMASCO EL SIGUIENTE PUESTO:

JEFE DE ESTUDIOS (Ref.: Cje/7)

### REQUISITOS

Español como lengua materna.  
Licenciatura en Filología. Esta titulación podrá ser sustituida por cualquier otra licenciatura siempre que el candidato cuente con una experiencia docente de español como lengua extranjera de 500 horas desarrolladas en dos años lectivos como mínimo y con dos años de experiencia en Jefatura de Estudios.  
Amplia experiencia en la didáctica del español como lengua extranjera.  
Capacidad de liderazgo pedagógico y dotes de organización.

### SE VALORARA

Filología Hispánica  
Cursos de didáctica de lenguas extranjeras recibidos, y especialmente de postgrado en didáctica del español como lengua extranjera.  
Experiencia en puesto similar  
Experiencia en formación del profesorado  
Conferencias y ponencias en congresos, cursos y seminarios sobre la didáctica de lenguas extranjeras  
Experiencia en la elaboración de materiales didácticos sobre la enseñanza de lenguas extranjeras.  
Publicaciones sobre didáctica de lenguas  
Conocimiento del idioma del país de destino y de otros idiomas.  
Conocimiento de la cultura y la sociedad del país de destino y así como de la cultura y sociedad de los países hispanohablantes.

### SE OFRECE

Retribución bruta anual: 7.400.000 pts.  
Contrato laboral temporal.  
Formación a cargo del Instituto.

### DOCUMENTACION REQUERIDA

Los candidatos deberán presentar su currículo mecanografiado y elaborado de acuerdo con el siguiente esquema:

Datos personales, dirección y teléfono  
Titulación académica, especificando 1º, 2º y 3º ciclo.

### Historial profesional:

- Experiencia docente, especificando institución, fechas y número de horas impartidas
- Cursos recibidos de didáctica de lenguas extranjeras, especificando institución organizadora, contenido, duración y, en su caso, calificación obtenida.
- Experiencia en puesto similar, indicando institución y duración.
- Experiencia en formación del profesorado, indicando institución y tipo de actividad
- Conferencias y ponencias en congresos, cursos y seminarios sobre enseñanza de lenguas extranjeras, especificando fecha e institución organizadora.
- Publicaciones:
  - Libros, artículos o ponencias, con indicación de título, fecha, número de páginas.
  - Publicación de materiales didácticos, especificando título, contenido, editorial y año
- Nivel de conocimiento del idioma del país de destino y de otros, en su caso, acreditados documentalmente.

El currículo y los documentos acreditativos serán enviados a la siguiente dirección: Centro Cultural Español, Mohammad Hafiz Ma'at, 10 P.O.Box 815467, Ammán, hasta el día 25.11.1993, en sobre cerrado y certificado, indicando la referencia del puesto al que se opta.

Solamente serán admitidas las solicitudes que se atengan al esquema indicado y que acrediten documentalmente cada uno de los requisitos y méritos. Los documentos en otros idiomas deberán ir acompañados de su correspondiente traducción oficial al idioma español.



**Instituto  
Cervantes**

CONVOCA PARA SU INSTITUTO EN AMMAN LOS SIGUIENTES PUESTOS:

2 PROFESORES A TIEMPO PARCIAL (Ref: CP\17)

### Requisitos:

Licenciatura en Filología. Esta titulación podrá ser sustituida por cualquier otra licenciatura siempre que el candidato cuente con una experiencia docente de español como lengua extranjera de 500 horas desarrolladas en dos años lectivos como mínimo.  
Dominio del español equivalente al de un nativo.  
Experiencia de enseñanza del español como lengua extranjera (mínimo de 300 horas lectivas, para el caso de licenciados en Filología).

### Se valorara:

Experiencia en puestos similares.  
Conocimiento del idioma, la cultura y la sociedad del país de destino, así como de la cultura y sociedad de los países hispanohablantes.  
Cursos impartidos sobre didáctica de lenguas.  
Cursos de formación en didáctica de lenguas.  
Experiencia en elaboración de materiales didácticos sobre la enseñanza de lenguas extranjeras.  
Publicaciones sobre didáctica de lenguas.

### Se ofrece:

Retribución bruta anual: 22.220 D. USA referida a tiempo completo. Para tiempo parcial se calculará la retribución correspondiente.  
Contrato laboral temporal.  
Formación a cargo del Instituto.

### Documentación requerida:

Los candidatos deberán presentar su currículo mecanografiado elaborado de acuerdo con el siguiente esquema:

Datos personales, dirección y teléfono.  
Titulación académica, especificando 1º, 2º y 3º ciclo.

### Historial profesional:

- Cursos de formación, especificando duración en horas contenido e institución organizadora.
- Nivel de conocimiento de idioma, acreditado documentalmente.
- Actividad profesional: 1) cursos de formación impartidos, con duración en horas, contenido y entidad organizadora; 2) publicaciones: libros, artículos o ponencias, con indicación de título, contenido, editorial y año.
- Experiencia docente, especificando las instituciones, fechas y número de horas acreditadas en cada una.

El currículo y los documentos acreditativos serán enviados a la siguiente dirección: Centro Cultural Español, Mohammad Hafiz Ma'at, 10 P.O.Box 815467, Ammán, hasta el día 25.11.93 en sobre cerrado y certificado, indicando la referencia del puesto al que se opta.

Solamente serán admitidas las solicitudes que se atengan al esquema indicado y que acrediten documentalmente cada uno de los requisitos y méritos. Los documentos en otros idiomas deberán ir acompañados de su correspondiente traducción oficial al idioma español.

## World oil prices retreat to lowest since Gulf war

LONDON (R) — World oil prices tumbled again Tuesday to their lowest since the 1991 Gulf war.

They extended a decline that has taken them down almost 25 per cent this year, in a market amply supplied and haunted by none of the usual fears of a supply disruption in the Middle East or Russia.

London December futures for the world benchmark Brent Blend of crude oil fell to \$15.40 per barrel, the lowest since June 1990.

The concerns about the global economy that have undermined world share values may also be hitting the oil price.

Weak economic activity signals poor petroleum demand. Demand, in fact, has this year declined for the first time in a decade.

Latest data suggests that the

12 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are broadening quotas set from Oct. 1.

But, even as petroleum demand weakens, British and Norwegian oil production outside OPEC is rising sharply.

Excess from them weighs heavily on the whole pricing structure because a North Sea crude, Brent Blend, is the marker on which contract terms worldwide are aligned.

OPEC delegation sources said Tuesday that OPEC was considering an appeal to non-OPEC producers to curb output and help it defend prices — now scarcely better in real terms than before the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

OPEC despairs of getting the free-marketeering British Conservative government to play a role. But some others

including Oman and Norway did, in the 1980s, either cut output or delay production increases.

Iran has also suggested a possible new output cut by OPEC itself when it next meets, in Vienna in two weeks' time.

Mehdi Varzi, a leading analyst who follows oil for Kleinwort Benson Securities, thinks an OPEC output cut may be needed to change the psychology of a well-supplied market that doesn't fear any immediate shortage of oil.

"The market is saying it can buy oil whenever it wants. So people will attack the price. That is the tendency when there is now news in a commodity market. You have to change the psychology. That is what OPEC ministers must address," Mr. Varzi said.

## Government panel says excessive regulations hurting Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A government advisory panel said Monday that Japan must eliminate excessive regulations that reduce business opportunities and push up consumer prices.

Recommendations submitted to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa included ending Japan's ban on rice imports, but a government spokesman said the administration had no immediate plans to do so. Japan has insisted it needs to maintain self-sufficiency in its staple food.

An easing of Japanese regulations long has been sought by its trading partners, who consider them a barrier to entry in the Japanese market and part of the reason for their big deficits in trade with Japan.

In an interim report, the advisory group for economic restructuring, headed by business leader Gaisi Hiraiwa, said that easing regulations

would create more business opportunities and jobs, give consumers greater choice in goods and services, and reduce the steep price differences between Japan and other countries.

"I'm grateful that the report is nicely done," said Mr. Hosokawa, who made deregulation a key pledge after his coalition government took power in August, ending 38 years of rule by the scandal-plagued Liberal Democratic Party.

Mr. Hosokawa said his government will start studying the recommendations as soon as it finishes another major task — legislation intended to stop political corruption. He said the government will develop five-year deregulation plans by early 1995.

The panel, set up in September, is to issue its final report in December.

The interim report urged

and end "as soon as possible" to a list of about 500 regulations it said controlled the demand and supply of goods in Japan by limiting market access, investment, import expansion and price flexibility.

It cited regulations governing electricity and gas charges, production and sale of alcoholic beverages, and transport fares.

It also called for easing regulations in the finance, securities and insurance markets.

The panel urged reducing to a minimum regulations imposed to protect safety and the environment.

The report said no "sanctuary" should be allowed in the attack on regulations, although some changes would require more time than others.

Mr. Hiraiwa, the panel's

## Harvard Business School revamps MBA programme

BOSTON (AP) — Harvard Business School, one of the most illustrious names in management education, has joined a national movement to discard old ways of training future executives.

Under a new curriculum revealed Monday, students beginning their studies for a master's degree in business administration would focus less on specific disciplines and more on combining skills to solve problems.

For instance, instead of courses in finance and marketing, first-year MBA students would take more general courses such as "managing products and services" and "leading people and organizations."

Students would often work together in teams to solve business problems, the school said.

The proposal, which follows more than a year of internal review, was given to faculty Oct. 29, but remained confidential until this week. The faculty must still approve the changes.

"We think the needs of organizations in the future, and consequently the needs of our students to help lead those organizations, change as the world becomes more global

and rapidly moving," said Walter Salmon, an associate dean of the school.

"Furthermore, we think there will be an increased need for both individual leadership and teamwork among senior managers in the future, and we want to anticipate those needs," he said.

The Harvard proposal echoes changes occurring at schools around the country, as business leaders question the relevance of the traditional MBA programme.

In recent years, schools such as the University of Michigan, Duke University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania have retooled their curriculums.

"I think we have a business world that is changing very rapidly," said Milton Blood,

managing director for the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, which accredits business schools. "The schools are recognising the need to rethink what they're doing, how they're preparing students."

"The problems that graduates face don't come to them as packaged academic disciplines," he added. "Students must be able to confront problems across disciplines."

## Egypt frees farm exports

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has abolished export licences and pricing committees for a range of farm products to boost exports in one of its most promising sectors, Cairo newspapers reported Tuesday.

Economy Minister Mahmoud Mohammad issued a decree Monday abolishing the licences on citrus fruits, rice, potatoes, onions, garlic, peanuts and other products, they said.

Economists identify Egypt's agricultural exports, worth \$83 million in the first half of 1993, as a major growth area. The

fertile Nile Valley can produce three crops a year and Egypt's agricultural potential is slowly being unleashed after decades of central planning and pricing policies.

Fresh Egyptian produce has penetrated Gulf Arab markets but so far has had only limited success in the huge European Community market where Egyptian exporters have found it difficult to meet fertiliser and packaging requirements.

Until now, exporters had to apply to an export committee appointed by Cairo's economy ministry for a licence for each

## China's cabinet orders halt to buying of overseas companies

BEIJING (R) — China has ordered a temporary halt to overseas buying spree by its companies in an apparent attempt to stem capital flight.

The State Council, China's cabinet, has demanded "an immediate, temporary stop to domestic companies and Chinese invested companies overseas (including companies controlled by Chinese capital) investing to acquire interests in overseas companies," the official International Economic and Trade News reported in its latest edition.

The newspaper, received in Beijing Monday, said any exceptions would have to be approved by the cabinet.

Economists said the move was a clear attempt to control the vast sums of money that have moved abroad in the liberal atmosphere that has come with China's economic reforms.

"There has been a lot of money bleeding out of the country," said a Western diplomat who watches the economy. "It's a sign they're starting to get worried about it."

The newspaper did not give a date for the order and officials declined to comment immediately on the story.

The State Council order demanded "a strict implementation of the relevant financial and foreign exchange regulations" and said companies who had

used precious foreign exchange to buy stock overseas were responsible for repaying the state.

China's central government used to keep strict control over all aspects of the economy but its power has been severely weakened by the economic reforms of the past several years, which set off annual growth of 13 per cent.

Worried that the economy was sliding out of control, the government has tried since June to control the worst excesses of the new system, cracking down on unapproved investments and corruption.

Capital flight is a particular worry for China's leaders, who for years have carefully built the country's foreign exchange reserves on the back of the booming export machine in south China. This year, however, China is running its first trade deficit for four years.

There are no precise figures for the amount of money that has slipped out of the country but it is clearly immense. For example, China is probably the biggest foreign investor in Hong Kong these days.

Many large, government-controlled companies have made legitimate overseas investments.

Economic analysts believe the new regulations are not aimed at high-profile invest-

ments like the purchase of the largest iron mine in Peru by Capital Iron and Steel (now often called Shougang Corp.).

More at risk are smaller investments by Chinese companies which are less well connected, they said.

With China's economy racing ahead, the Communist Party's Central Committee meets this week to deal with the tough issues of tax, finance and banking reform.

The plenum will "take important and breakthrough reform measures, which are both timely and necessary," the Hong Kong daily Wen Wei Po, China's mouthpiece in the British colony, reported Monday.

The newspaper said the long-awaited of China's top 189 leaders would begin Thursday and pass a plan that will "provide for a stable economic and social environment."

For months, economists have worried that the rapid pace of China's growth — 13.5 per cent this year after 12.8 per cent last year — could not be maintained and would send the economy spinning madly out of control.

Then they worried that the government, fearful of an inflation that was exceeding 20 per cent year in cities, would slam on the brakes and bring growth to an abrupt halt.

## French senate approves experimental 32-hour week

PARIS (R) — The French senate has narrowly adopted a proposal allowing for a four-day, 32-hour work week with reduced pay as an experiment to combat record unemployment.

The upper house approved by 149 votes to 133 an amendment to the government's employment bill, which must now go to the national assembly, where deputies rejected a similar text last month.

Under the senate measure, companies which experiment with a voluntary 32-hour week would be exempted from some payroll welfare taxes provided they used the savings to create new jobs.

The shorter work week would carry in eight per cent pay cut and would have to be applied flexibly with working hours calculated on an annualised basis.

Its adoption showed how desperately France's centre-right coalition is searching for inexorably rising jobless queues. It also illustrated that even under a conservative government, most French politicians still look to the state, rather than the market, to solve the problem of unemployment, which hit 11.8 per cent in September.

Conservative Gaullist Labour Minister Michel Giraud accepted the amendment on condition a four-day

week was not paid at the same rate as the current five-day, 39-hour week.

It was an illusion to believe that reducing working hours would solve the problem of unemployment, he said.

"The four-day week is not in the government's bill. But let me say clearly that the government is prepared to encourage all reasonable innovations," Mr. Giraud told the senate last week.

While Chancellor Helmut Kohl is telling Germans they must work more and retire later to pull the economy out of recession, French leaders are looking in the opposite direction to share available work between the haves and

the have-nots.

Advocates see "work sharing" as a potential radical cure for unemployment, while critics call it a rosy road to perdition.

Several firms are already running voluntary four-day-week experiments in France, including U.S. computer firms Hewlett Packard and Digital Equipment, in most cases to avoid redundancies rather than create additional jobs.

Politicians and trade unionists differ widely over the terms for shorter working hours. The opposition socialist and communist parties rejected the senate amendment, saying it would force companies to cut wages to obtain state support.

The left and trade unions advocate a step-by-step reduction in hours for all workers, with those earning 10,000-12,000 francs (\$1,800-\$2,000) a month or less spared pay cuts.

A handful of progressive industrialists, such as Antoine Riboud, chairman of food giant BSN, argue it is possible to cut working hours without a proportionate drop in wages. They calculate there would be considerable savings to public coffers if the jobless were working, paying taxes and making social security and pension fund contributions.

This, they argue, makes it economic sense for the state and social security funds to co-finance shorter working

hours by reducing payroll deductions to encourage extra job creation.

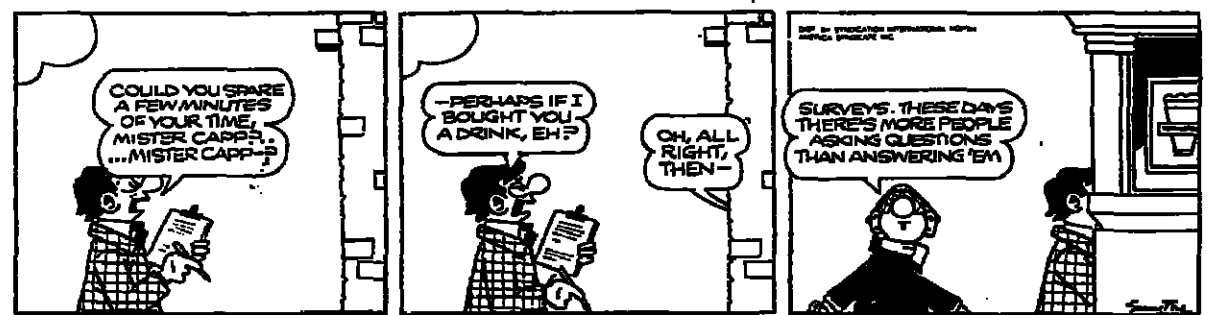
Critics of the idea, of whom the most virulent is economic liberal Small Business Minister Alain Madelin, say France's own experience under socialist rule in the 1980s proved that neither a 39-hour work-week for a fifth week of annual holiday — both with full pay — created more jobs.

Writing in the conservative Le Figaro, Mr. Madelin called the 32-hour week "a stupid bright idea," noting that the major industrialised countries with the lowest unemployment rates — the United States and Japan — have the longest working hours.

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff

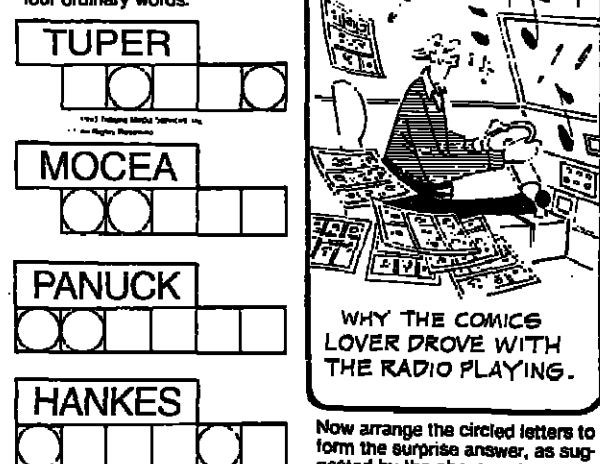


### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

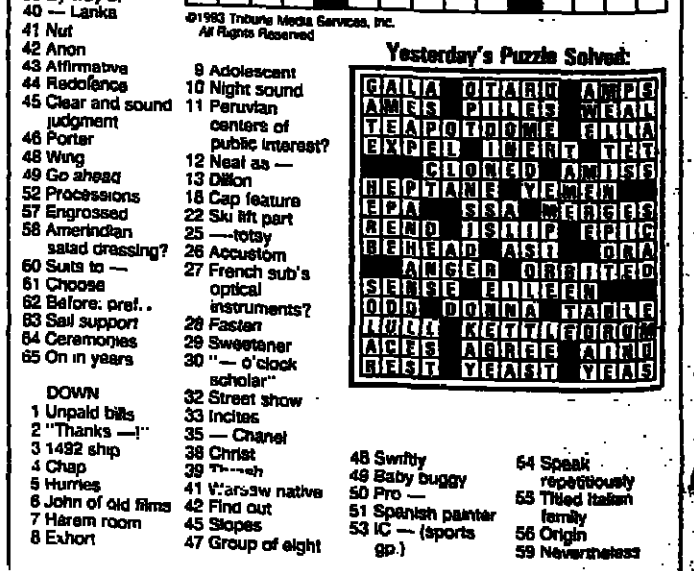
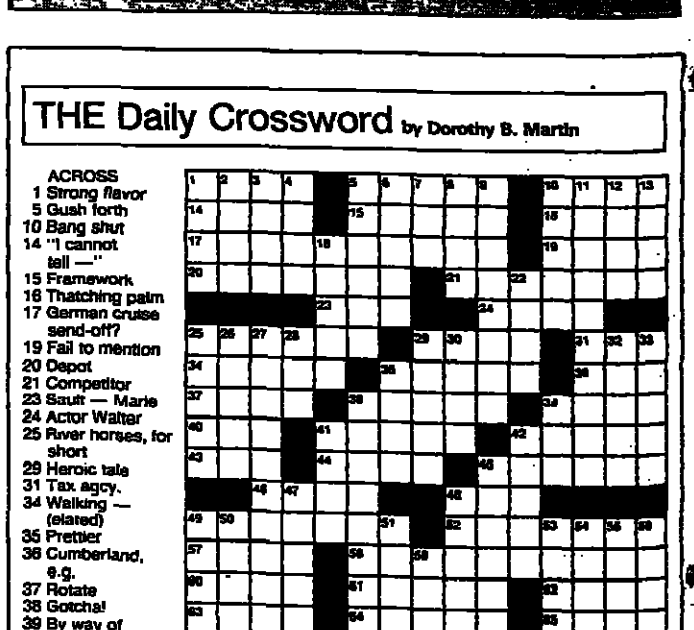
Answer: HE LIKED "TUPPER-MOCEA-PANUCK-HANKES"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIPER LINER THRIVE UTMOST

Answer: He predicted the company's earnings growth — THE NET "PROPHET"

### THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin





## Beirut reconstruction firm forecasts huge profits

ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKET

## Airlines report

offering for Lebanese and

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## Proposed Russian constitution gives new freedoms, prohibits abuses

MOSCOW (AP) — Russians got their first look Tuesday at President Boris Yeltsin's proposed new constitution, which guarantees them new freedoms and prohibits many Soviet-era abuses.

Mr. Yeltsin approved the draft constitution Monday. The document, which allows him to serve out his five-year term until 1996 and strengthens the presidency, is to go before voters next month.

If approved, the new charter would replace Russia's last constitution adopted in 1977 under former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in an era when the Communist Party was the country's supreme authority.

The old constitution, which is still in force, also guaranteed Russians many freedoms, but in practice citizens' rights were constantly violated by the KGB, the government and even the medical system.

Newspapers were busy typesetting the 66-page document, which first appeared on the ITAR-TASS news agency. Most newspapers will not be

able to publish the document until Wednesday.

The new constitution codifies much of what the now disbanded legislature or Mr. Yeltsin had done by amendment or decree, such as ensuring the right to buy and sell land.

But the new constitution for the first time in clear language and sometimes in great detail outlines the rights and obligations of Russia's 149 million citizens.

Some of the new constitution's more than 137 separate articles aim to do away with the pervasive secrecy that characterised the Soviet system and to guard against intrusions by security organisations.

Article 31 states that "everyone has the right to secret correspondence, telephone calls, postal, telegraphic and other communications."

Under Soviet rule, the KGB fingered many letters between Russians and overseas correspondents as well as systematically monitoring all forms of communications by dissidents. The new constitution would

guarantee freedom of the press and forbid censorship. Foreign governments are likely to look closely at these rights, which Mr. Yeltsin restricted briefly during the political tumult in October.

Some Stalinist practices that lasted almost until the end of Soviet rule are eliminated.

The practice of "forced labour" under which millions of Soviet citizens were sent to camps in Siberia, where many perished, is forbidden. So is the custom of forcing family members to testify against each other.

The Russian government may not deprive its citizens of their citizenship, send them out of the country against their will or turn them over to a foreign government.

Soviet authorities punished many prominent dissidents, including author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, conductor Mstislav Rostropovich, and poet Joseph Brodsky by taking away their citizenship and exiling them.

Russians are now guaranteed the right to travel abroad and freedom of movement within their own country. But

authorities in many big cities still impose tight residence restrictions that date back to Soviet times.

The new constitution seeks to prevent the Soviet practice of locking up prisoners in mental hospitals and giving them debilitating by prohibiting any form of medical or scientific experiments without consent.

Although Mr. Yeltsin's proposed constitution gives Russians new freedoms, it also gives him great powers, not all of which have been clearly defined and which can be used to limit citizens' rights.

The president has the power to introduce a state of emergency and temporarily cut back on civil freedoms under federal laws which have yet to be drafted.

Under the new constitution, the president can issue decrees, which have the power of law but do not have to be approved by parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin has issued hundreds of decrees, which form the backbone of his reforms but some also have been used against his opponents.

## Kashmir Muslim cleric calls for protests

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — A prominent Kashmiri Muslim cleric Tuesday called for mass protests against the Indian army siege of the Hazratbal Mosque as calm was restored in a tense area of the disputed border with Pakistan.

B.R. Kundal, a senior Kashmiri administration official, said that Pakistan had asked for the return of the bodies of four Pakistani troops whom India claims were killed in a cross-border firefight in Kashmir Sunday.

Mr. Kundal, the top civilian administrator in the Indian portion of the divided state, said Pakistani military officers met twice with Indian officers Tuesday and had asked for the return of the bodies of the four Pakistani Rangers.

Mr. Kundal said Monday that the four Pakistani Rangers were killed in a "heavy exchange of fire" with Indian Border Guards at Ramgarh, near Jammu, on Sunday and that Indian army reinforcements had been sent to the area.

A Pakistani military spokesman in Islamabad has denied that there was any fighting in the area and called the Indian claim that four Pakistani soldiers were killed "absolutely baseless."

Mr. Kundal told the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency there had not been any firing around Ramgarh Tuesday and that the situation was "well under control now."

Indian and Pakistani troops frequently exchange fire across the line of control separating the forces in Kashmir. Pakistan holds the northern third of the Himalayan region and India the southern two-thirds and the two countries have twice gone to war over Kashmir since independence from Britain in 1947.

The standoff at Srinagar's Hazratbal Mosque entered a 26th day meanwhile with no signs of an imminent breakthrough.

Some 50 armed Kashmiri Muslim separatists and between 60 and 70 Muslim worshippers have been holed up in shrine since the complex was surrounded by Indian army troops on the night of Oct. 15.

Moulvi Abbas Ansari, a top Kashmiri Muslim cleric, accused the Kashmiri administration Tuesday of dragging its feet in bringing about an end to the drama and appealed for street protests across the state Friday.

Indian paramilitary troops shot dead more than 50 Kashmiri Muslim protesters Friday, Oct. 22 when they tried to march on the lakeside shrine to force a lifting of the siege.

Mr. Ansari, who heads an umbrella organisation of militant and political groups, said the government's negotiations with the gunmen holed up inside the mosque were bound to fail.

In a separate development, hundreds of thousands of voters cast their ballots Tuesday across the Indian hill state of Himachal Pradesh in a second stage of elections seen here as crucial for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Diana gets tough with tabloids

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana is fighting back against Britain's sensationalist tabloid press. The estranged wife of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, Monday won a court injunction barring publication of any more "peeping Tom" health-club photos and decided to sue Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) and a gymnasium owner involved. Princess Diana's patience finally snapped after years of often intrusive media coverage of her private life when colour photos taken by a hidden camera as she exercised in the suburban London Gym appeared in the Sunday Mirror and Monday's Daily Mirror. Lawyers acting for the princess said they would issue a writ claiming damages from MGN and L.A. Fitness club owner Bryce Taylor, a New Zealander, who took the pictures. The decision to sue came after Princess Diana, 32, issued a statement Monday expressing distress and outrage at publication of the photos, which show her in skin-tight cycling shorts and a skimpy top leotard. She also won a court injunction barring the tabloids from printing any more of the photos.

### Senior U.S. official resigns

WASHINGTON (R) — In a sign that the Clinton administration's embattled foreign policy is beginning to take casualties, the No. 2 State Department official resigned after less than a year on the job, U.S. officials said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the resignation of Deputy Secretary Clifton Wharton — who is second in command to Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the department's highest-ranking black official — was believed to be effective immediately. He was offered an ambassadorship to an unspecified country but declined, saying "he wanted to move on to something else" outside of government, one senior official told Reuters. Officials said no other personnel changes were expected right now, although one administration source said: "I think there may be other changes down the road."

### Senegalese elected new FAO head

ROME (R) — Jacques Diouf of Senegal was elected director-general of the United Nations biggest agency, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Mr. Diouf beat runner-up Geoff Miller of Australia to succeed Lebanon's Edouard Saouma who has held the post since 1975. Mr. Diouf clinched the election after the Chilean candidate, Rafael Moreno Rojas, withdrew and urged his Latin American and Caribbean backers to join the African countries supporting the man from Senegal. The 55-year-old Diouf is currently Senegal's ambassador to the United Nations in New York.

### Cambodia marks Independence Day

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodians celebrated Independence Day Tuesday with a colourful parade and renewed calls for the radical Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction to join in national reconciliation. "We would like to appeal to the Khmer Rouge group of immediately stop killing Khmer people and destroying the Khmer nation and return to the national community," said First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh. The radical Khmer Rouge guerrilla group, held responsible for the deaths of one million Cambodians during its 1970-75 rule, spurned the U.N.-supervised May elections and continues to wage a low-intensity terrorist war against the government. Despite the defection of more than 2,500 Khmer Rouge since June the insurgents have demanded, without success, an advisory role in the newly elected coalition government.

### Taiwan charges 3 Chinese hijackers

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwanese prosecutors charged three mainland Chinese Tuesday with hijacking two Chinese airlines to Taiwan this year, recommending prison terms of eight to 12 years, court officials said. Prosecutors in the northern county of Taoyuan requested 12-year sentences for Shi Xiabo and Yang Mingde, both 30, for violating Taiwan's civil aviation laws with hijackings in August and September. There have been six hijackings to Taiwan from China since April, with the last two Monday and last Friday. Mr. Shi, a wool vendor, commandeered an Air China Boeing 767-200 to Taiwan in August. Mr. Yang, a taxi driver, accompanied by his wife and son, hijacked a Sichuan Airlines Tupolev 154 in September. Both men denounced communism and sought asylum. An eight-year jail term was recommended for Mr. Yang's wife, Han Feng-Ying, 29, as an accessory to the September hijacking.

### Bush's eldest son begins campaign

HOUSTON (AP) — Republican George W. Bush began a 27-city tour of Texas to announce his intention to unseat Democratic Gov. Ann Richards. Former President George Bush's eldest son, who served as both an adviser and confidante in his father's campaigns, said Monday his campaign would focus on education, crime and the growth of state government. "I worry about the future of our state. I think Texas is changing, and not for the best. My drive is to make the future for my kids bright. I like the Texas of dreamers and doers," Mr. Bush said at a news conference. Mr. Bush, the 47-year-old managing partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team, was born in Connecticut, and grew up in Midland and Houston. He earned a Master's Degree in business administration from Harvard and started an oil and gas exploration company in Midland. In 1978, he lost a race for Congress, and Democrats say he lacks the political experience to be governor.

## Ghali: Ethnic conflicts replace cold war

WASHINGTON (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Monday warned the United States and other major powers that ethnic conflicts around the world posed as big a threat to their security as the cold war.

In an indirect appeal for the United States to support the United Nations, Dr. Ghali said a great power need not be threatened directly before it joined multilateral action.

His speech, prepared for delivery to the National Defence University, kicked off a two-day visit to Washington, aimed in part at countering criticism that the United Nations led American troops into a quagmire in Somalia.

He intends to meet key congressional leaders Tuesday to discuss policy issues and the need for Washington to speed up payments of its huge debt to the world body.

Dr. Ghali noted that since World War II, conflicts increased to 127 wars, most of them for ethnic reasons, compared to 88 in the first part of the century.

The end of the cold war then unleashed the current wave of conflicts. The "world was not prepared for it," he said.

"States frequently make their choices on grounds of national interest, but how, short of direct foreign threat, can leaders convince their people of the need to take action?"

## U.S.-China summit to help restore 'normal' ties

BEIJING (Agencies) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Tuesday an upcoming Sino-U.S. summit would return ties to a "track of normal development," but rejected any U.S. conditions on trade.

Mr. Qian said that Chinese President Jiang Zemin would not negotiate when meeting U.S. President Bill Clinton in Seattle, where an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum meeting opens next week.

Instead, the meeting would help restore damaged relations, he said.

"The meeting...will enable the Sino-U.S. relations to enter a new phase and to embark on the track of normal development," he said.

This would allow the two sides "to move beyond the present specific differences and contradictions and to take a strategic view of the Sino-U.S. relations in the broad perspective and from a long-term perspective," he added.

But the foreign minister remained firm on China's position that any U.S. conditions on renewal of its most-favoured-nation (MFN) trade status were unfair and accused Washington of failing to give up cold war pressure tactics.

"Trade is trade," he said, warning that if MFN was made conditional in progress in the areas of human rights, arms sales and trade — as Mr. Clinton has warned — "then it would be hard to maintain



KID BREAKS RECORD: Nine-year-old Agustín Ortiz, pilots his family-owned single-engine plane. Ortiz broke the Guinness world record on Oct. 28 for being the youngest pilot to fly a plane solo. The previous record belonged to an 11-year-old U.S. boy (AFP photo)

## Georgia, Abkhazia troops exchange fire

MOSCOW (AFP) — Georgian and Abkhazian troops exchanged fire during the night near a bridge spanning the Inguri River which defines the border between the breakaway Republic of Abkhazia and Georgia, Interfax News Agency reported Tuesday.

It was the first report of clashes between Georgian and Abkhazian troops since late September after Abkhazian forces took control of their capital, Sukhumi, marking the end of a 14-month war that cost more than 3,000 lives.

Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzimba, quoted by Interfax,

said on local television that Abkhazian forces "will not permit fresh aggression by Georgian troops on Abkhazian territory."

The report, quoting the Abkhazian Defence Ministry, said Georgian forces had taken up positions along the border late Sunday a day after taking control of the western Georgian city of Zugdidi.

It said these actions were "part of a plan for a new attack by Georgian forces on Abkhazian territory."

Zugdidi was the last stronghold of rebel forces loyal to the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, and press re-

ports Monday said he and about 1,000 of his troops had fled to the Abkhazian city of Gali about 12 kilometres north of Zugdidi.

At a news conference in Zugdidi Sunday, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said Georgia would retake Abkhazia either through political negotiations or by use of military force.

Mr. Shevardnadze meanwhile held secret talks Tuesday in Zugdidi with Admiral Eduard Baltin, the commander of the Russian-Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet, Interfax reported, giving no further details.

## S. African government, ANC meet separately to ponder final proposals

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President F.W. de Klerk's government and the ANC met separately Tuesday to decide what to do if the conservative Freedom Alliance persists in its refusal to endorse South Africa's democracy process.

"We have reached a point when some formal decisions have to be made on how to move forward," government spokesman Richard Carter told AFP.

He would not disclose the agenda for the extraordinary cabinet meeting, but said "it is safe to assume that they will discuss the Freedom Alliance," as well as formulate the government's final position on key constitution issues.

The African National Congress (ANC) decision-making National Executive Council went into a huddle and an ANC spokesman said it was likely they too would discuss the alliance.

The situation remained deadlocked after the government failed late Monday after a series of meetings to entice the alliance back to the democracy talks, which are scheduled to be wrapped up by the weekend.

Democracy negotiators are putting the final touches to South Africa's new constitutional blueprint, but hopes are fading that the alliance will rejoin them to have a say in its drafting.

Monday's meetings came af-

ter a series of bilateral talks between the government and the alliance during the past two weeks — including an intensive three-day secret session.

The South African Press Association said the government would debate the issues with the ANC in further bilateral talks in order to ensure agreement by Thursday or Friday.

The alliance was formed on Oct. 7 by the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), the Ciskei and Bophuthatswana black homelands and white right-wing groups after they withdrew from the multi-party talks in July to press their demands for a strong federalist state and a separate white homeland.

But ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus ruled out that his organisation would make any more concessions to the hard-line alliance.

"The ANC has already said that there will not be any further compromises on regionalism," he told AFP.

In final concessions to the alliance in the past two weeks, the government and the ANC agreed to increased powers for the regions — a big policy shift for the basically centralist ANC — and have indicated they will go no further.

The Star newspaper reported Monday that the ANC and the government, the two main players at the negotiations, had decided to press ahead with the democratisa-

tion process with or without the alliance.

In a headline speech at the weekend, ANC President Nelson Mandela vowed the election would go ahead on April 27 as scheduled — if need be without the white right wing "and its black surrogates."

Mr. Mandela said the ANC had made enough concessions on federalism in negotiations and was not prepared to make any more.

IFP President Mangosuthu Buthelezi, a key player in the alliance, meanwhile left for an overseas trip with his two senior negotiators last week and is only due back Thursday.

Democracy negotiators said Monday that they were still aiming for a Thursday evening deadline to complete the interim constitution, but have said that talks could be extended until Saturday to finalise any "outstanding matters."

European Community (EC) foreign ministers decided to send a dozen observers to South Africa's first multi-racial general election.

The observers will be drawn from EC staff and representatives of the 12 Communist member states.

The ministers, meeting here late Monday, also said remaining EC sanctions against Pretoria would be lifted once the Transitional Executive Council was functioning there. The sanctions concern nuclear supplies and "sensitive" police equipment.

## Thousands of U.S. babies abandoned at birth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of babies across the United States have been abandoned in their hospital cribs by parents unwilling or unable to take them home. They are the tiniest victims of crack-cocaine, poverty, homelessness and AIDS. They are one of the reasons why the number of American children in foster care is nearing half a million. Researchers counted 22,000 abandoned infants and "boarder babies" in U.S. hospitals in 1991, according to a draft report from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The study defines boarder babies as infants, under the age of 12 months, who remain in the hospital beyond the time when they are medically ready to be discharged. Obtained by the Associated Press, the report is the first national survey on boarder babies. The researchers said their numbers probably underestimate the problem. At Howard University Hospital in Washington, volunteers rock and feed and bathe the babies, nurses bring them clothes and toys. But as long as the babies are in a legal limbo, while social workers struggle to find them a home or a family, they cannot leave the hospital.

## Court saves girl from arranged marriage

NANTES, France (AP) — A court Monday, in what is thought to be a unique ruling, reversed an expulsion order for a Moroccan woman who came to France illegally to escape an arranged marriage with an older man. The court ruled that the expulsion would "lead to exceptionally grave consequences" for Saïda Zemrou, Ms. Zemrou, 25, has said she would risk serious threats should she return to her family home in a village near Meknes. The young woman came to France in 1988 with the help of her aunt living in Nantes to escape a marriage arranged by her father to a 50-year-old man who had one wife already. For four years, she lived clandestinely. In 1992, when she tried to correct her situation, she was confronted with refusals from officials of the Loire-Atlantique region, who ordered her expelled on Nov. 2. Her lawyers contended that sending the young woman back to her home would violate the European Convention on Human Rights which states that no one can be "submitted to torture or...degrading treatment." The stipulation is usually used in political or ethnic cases. Lawyers argued that Ms. Zemrou, who received only limited schooling in Morocco, risked the wrath of her father if she returned. Her father's honour would be disgraced by her flight to France, under traditional customs.

## Elvis sighted in miniature

NEW YORK (AP) — Elvis may not be living, but he's still a doll. The beloved singer is back — somewhat miniaturised — in a series of dolls depicting various stages of his legendary career. There's teen idol Elvis, decked in his Beale Street checked jacket, and military Elvis, resplendent in an army uniform (complete with authentic ribbons and crew cut). Sure to be a hit is Jailhouse Rock Elvis. Another shows him wearing the white rhinestone suit he made famous. Others feature the black leather or gold lame stage apparel he loved too. The first three limited edition Hasbro Dolls go on sale on Jan. 8 — Elvis' birthday — and the next three on Aug. 16 — the day he died. The 12-inch (30-centimetre) vinyl dolls were unveiled Monday at the company's Manhattan showroom. They're described as "fully-posable, authentically detailed." At \$50 a pop, the toymaker sees the dolls going primarily to collectors. "Most people, I imagine, won't even take it out of the box," said Larry Bernstein, president of Hasbro's toy division. There have been several Elvis dolls, the most recent was the 1983 World Doll Version. But Hasbro is hoping its attention to detail — like the 232 tiny rhinestone stars pasted on the Aloha From Hawaii Elvis' suit — will make its doll a superstar. One stage of the singer's career is noticeably missing: Elvis' fat period. "There's no point in doing that," said Jack Soden, chief executive of Elvis Presley Enterprises. "You don't see any pictures of a fat Liz Taylor promoting perfume, do you?"



## Graf reaches second round in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Steffi Graf, returning to competition after foot surgery five weeks ago, reached the second round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia by defeating Debbie Graham 6-2, 6-0, Monday night.

"I felt very good tonight and felt no effects from the layoff," the German star said. "I feel that I'm fully recovered."

Graf, displaying mobility on the court and applying pressure with her attacking game, led 4-2 in the first set before reeling off eight straight games to end the 50-minute match.

"I wasn't used to it, and it was a difficult time for me," Graf said of her recovery. "I wanted to get back to action."

The world's No. 1 female player said she had been in considerable pain from bone chips in her right foot but now she has no pain whatsoever.

She will next play Pam Shriver, who rallied to a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Brenda Schultz. Shriver had broken for a 5-4 lead in the third set when Schultz, a hard server, followed a double-fault with a missed volley when close to the net.

In another first-round match, No. 2 seed Conchita Martinez advanced to the second round when Ginger

Helgeson retired because of a stomach virus. Helgeson became ill and gave up the Martinez leading 6-4, 3-1.

Amy Frazier won the opening match of the tournament with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Gigi Fernandez. Fernandez lost on the third match point with two successive double-faults.

No. 9 Natalia Zvereva overcame the late charge of wild card Ann Miller 6-1, 7-6 (7-4). Miller tied the second set 6-6, but three wide drives cost her the tiebreaker.

Marianne Werdel prevailed over qualifier Tami Whitlinger 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) after 2 hours, 20 minutes of fierce hitting. Ann Henricksson defeated qualifier Petra Begarow 6-3, 6-4, and Lisa Raymond defeated qualifier Chanda Rubin 6-4, 6-0.

Raymond, the former NCAA champion from the University of Florida, is a local favorite from Wayne, Pa. She reeled off eight straight games from 4-4 in the first set. She will meet Martinez in the second round.

Germany's Anke Huber became the third top-10 player to drop out of the \$750,000 women's tennis tournament as play began here Monday.

Huber, ranked 10th, joins



Steffi Graf

second-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain and ninth-ranked Jennifer Capriati of the United States on the sidelines. Magdalena Maleeva, the Bulgarian rated 14th in the world, is ill and also out.

The event is a tune-up for next week's \$3.5 million championship in New York.

## Bulls rebound to rout Hawks

CHICAGO (Agencies) — The Chicago Bulls, playing without retired superstar Michael Jordan and injured all-star Scottie Pippen, rebounded from humiliating defeat in their home opener to crush the Atlanta Hawks 106-80 Monday.

B.J. Armstrong had 23 points to lead Chicago, and Pete Myers — Jordan's little-known replacement in the starting lineup — chipped in 15, including a 3-pointer from beyond midcourt as the first half ended.

Myers also had seven assists for the Bulls, who were coming off an embarrassing 95-71 loss to Miami Saturday — the night they received their NBA championship rings.

Myers' 3-pointer capped Chicago's comeback from a 10-point deficit to tie the score 44-44 at the half.

Chicago broke the game open with a 19-9 run to start the second half and were up 72-59 after three quarters. They led by as many as 30 points at 97-67 with four minutes remaining.

The Bulls were playing their first game without Pippen, who was placed on injured reserve with tendinitis in his right ankle. They lost coach Phil Jackson in the second quarter when

he was ejected for arguing with the officials.

Dominique Wilkins led the Hawks with 17 points. At Utah, Ricky Pierce's jumper from the foul line with 11 seconds remaining lifted the Seattle SuperSonics to a 101-100 win over the Jazz in a game that featured 29 lead changes.

The see-saw battle was tight all the way. The game was tied 32-32 after the first quarter and 55-55 at the half, while Seattle nursed a one-point lead at 77-76 heading into the fourth quarter.

Utah had a chance to win the game with the clock winding down, but Karl Malone's running jumper from the left wing was blocked by Michael Cage.

Jeff Malone picked up the loose ball and heaved up a desperation shot at the buzzer that bounced off the back of the rim.

Karl Malone had given the Jazz a 100-99 lead with 27 seconds left on a long jumper from just inside 3-point range.

Sam Perkins led the Sonics with 18 points, while Pierce, slowed by a sprained ankle, finished with 16.

Karl Malone topped Utah with 22 points. Tom Chambers added 17 and Jeff Malone had 15.

In Boston, Sherman Douglas led seven players in double figures with 19 points as the Celtics held off a late Milwaukee rally to beat the Bucks 108-100.

Milwaukee used an 8-2 run with just under five minutes remaining to pull within three at 93-90, but the Bucks could not close.

Robert Parish had 18 points for the Celtics, while Dino Rajda chipped in 15, coming off the bench.

Eric Murdock paced the Bucks with 22 points before fouling out late in the game, while Ken Norman, Frank Brickowski and Todd Day each scored 26.

The Bucks had outscored Boston 12-2 to erase a 10-point third-quarter deficit, but the Celtics regrouped and took a 79-74 lead into the final quarter.

Meanwhile Pippen was placed on the injured list with an ankle injury, meaning he will miss at least five games.

"Scottie is a tough kid who always wants to play. I think he's definitely a little frustrated at not being able to do what he's done in the past. Our main concern is Scottie's health," general manager Jerry Krause said Monday.

Pippen, an NBA all-star the past two years, has been recovering from off-season minor surgery on his right ankle. Pippen missed three practices last week and was limping after Saturday's game. His condition has been diagnosed as chronic tendinitis.

"It is recurrently giving him problems," said trainer Chip Schaefer.

Pippen, who scored 41 points in the Bulls' first two games — has not missed a game because of injury for five seasons.

The small forward became the third Bulls player on the injured list, joining guard John Paxson and center-forward Scott Williams, with Jordan in retirement, the only regulars from last season still healthy are Bill Cartwright, B.J. Armstrong and Horace Grant.

Pippen suffered a sprain during the 1992 Eastern Conference semifinals against the New York Knicks. He played through the injury as the Bulls won their second of three straight titles.

He then played on the Dream Team at Barcelona. He missed only one game last season and that was a suspension for fighting.

## Saintly Cantona called to account for his sins

PARIS (AFP) — Eric Cantona has already been restored to saintly status at Old Trafford.

Two goals in the Manchester derby victory Sunday were enough to ensure the idolised French striker was quickly forgiven for his role in Manchester United's European Cup exit against Galatasaray last week.

Unfortunately, Europe's football authorities will not be so quick to pardon the latest sins of a player for whom the epithet controversial could have been invented.

UEFA's Disciplinary Committee meets Thursday to review Cantona's explanation of his outburst against the Swiss referee at the end of the match.

Comments made directly to Kurt Rothlisberger earned Cantona a red card but it is what he said to the press afterwards that have plunged him into really hot water.

Rothlisberger wants the player hauled over the coals for alleging he may have been bribed and UEFA could decide to ban Cantona from France's crucial World Cup qualifier with Bulgaria next Wednesday.

The Olympic Marseille bribes affair means European football's reputation has already taken a battering this year and officials are in no mood to allow Cantona to get away with his unsubstantiated allegations.

A flat denial won't save the player either for his comments were recorded by French television.

"I am certain that referees have been bought in the European Cup and I ask myself whether Mr. Rothlisberger had not also been bought on

Wednesday night," Cantona said.

It was a petulant, heat-of-the-moment outburst which was hardly consistent with the player's own admission that United had nobody but themselves to blame for their dismal display.

In the circumstances, a retraction and an apology might have been a smart move. But saying sorry is not the Cantona style.

Calling the former French national coach a "bag of shit" and screaming "idiot" in the face of each member of a Disciplinary Committee that had banned him for six months, are just two of the highlights of a career that has lurched from one crisis to another.

By the age of 25, Cantona had already quit football twice. The second time came after his ban — initially imposed for throwing the ball at a referee.

Similar histrionics were behind his first retirement. Marseille coach Gerard Gili had the audacity to substitute his star player during a friendly. Cantona responded by stomping out of the ground, pausing only to throw his shirt in Gili's face.

Little wonder then that Cantona says his personal philosophy is based on living for the moment — a creed derived from his hero, the French poet Arthur Rimbaud.

"Rimbaud had the spontaneity of a child and I believe in that," he has said. "Even in football I believe I should live as instinctively as I can."

It was instinct that brought Cantona perilously close to ruling himself out of the game for good before a chance conversation between France's

coach Gerard Houllier and Sheffield Wednesday manager Trevor Francis allowed him to resurrect his career in England.

When Francis stipulated he would need to see the Frenchman on trial before he could sign him, Cantona erupted. Insulted, he stormed out of Hillsborough only to be brought back to Yorkshire by Leeds, who he helped to the 1991-92 championship.

Adored by the fans, Cantona never saw eye-to-eye with Leeds' disciplinarian boss Howard Wilkinson and within months of the title triumph he was allowed to move to Manchester United where he became the final piece in Alex Ferguson's championship-winning jigsaw.

Last week's loss in Istanbul was a setback but one from which United are bound to learn. Ferguson's young squad is already coasting towards a second title and a lengthy reign at the top of the English game seems inevitable.

Cantona's artistry plays a

vital role in the United formula. His goals, as on Sunday, are important but it is the Frenchman's superb awareness on the pitch — his ability to weigh a deadly pass to perfection — that mark him out as special while a robust physique means he is able to cope with the hurly-burly of the contemporary English game.

But while revelling in the appreciation he gets in England, Cantona is the first to admit that the game there has also been good to him.

"I had to start again from scratch. In France I had reached a stage where I had more to lose than to win. If I was good it was taken for granted, if I wasn't then I was finished."

And whatever happens Thursday, it seems unlikely that he will lose any more sleep over the latest controversy than those that already passed him by.

"You live with your past," he says. "But if you dwell on it too much you can't go forward."

## Hollywood producer to manage 1996 Olympics ceremonies

ATLANTA (AP) — The opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Olympics, a televised spectacle that will present Atlanta to the world's television viewers and those in the stadium, will be in the hands of a Hollywood producer.

The job was given to Don Mischer Productions, whose credits include Michael Jackson's halftime show at the 1993 Super Bowl, this year's Emmy Awards, President George Bush's inaugural gala and the closing ceremonies of Liberty Weekend in 1986.

"I don't think it's fair to compare anything we've done to the task that lies ahead," said Don Mischer, president of the production company.

Atlanta, which openly yearns to be ranked among the world's elite cities, has been agonising over how it will be viewed by an international audience in 1996. Atlanta officials

were said to have been awed by the ceremonies at the 1992 games in Barcelona.

Mischer and Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), said the ceremonies will focus on the centennial of the modern Olympics, the American south and youth.

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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
AND TANNAN HIRSCH  
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#### COUNTED OUT!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 8  
♥ 7 6 4 2  
♦ Q J 10 9  
♣ K 7 2

**WEST**  
♠ 10 9 8  
♥ K Q J 10 9  
♦ 7 5 3  
♣ 8 4

**EAST**  
♠ 7 5 4 3 2  
♥ 8  
♦ 8 6 4  
♣ J 9 6 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K J  
♥ A 5 3  
♦ A 3  
♣ A Q 10 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 6 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Before committing yourself to a line of play, try to find out as much as possible about the distribution of the cards. Observe how an early concession of a trick and proper play, thereafter, made this hand an open book.

South's bidding sequence showed

a balanced hand of 25-27 points. North checked on a possible 4-4 heart fit and, when assured that it did not exist, made the value jump to the no-trump slam.

West led the king of hearts and declarer made the technically correct play of allowing it to hold the trick. There were 11 fast tricks available and several chances to reel in a 13th in clubs.

At trick two, West shifted to the ten of spades. Dummy's queen won and, in an effort to get a count of the heart suit, declarer led to the ace. East's spade discard was enlightening. South continued cashing out winners in spades and diamonds, in the process getting an almost complete count of the West hand. That defender had started with five hearts and three diamonds, and at least three spades. Therefore, West could not hold more than two clubs. Declarer could now claim. The ace and king of clubs were cashed and, when the jack did not appear, South continued with a club from dummy and finessed the ten. When it won, 12 tricks were in the bank.

T O D A Y	<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b></p> <p><b>JURASSIC PARK</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 677420</p> <p><b>CONCORD</b></p> <p><b>CONCORD '1'</b></p> <p>Harrison Ford — in</p> <p><b>The Fugitive</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>Tc <b>CONCORD '2'</b> in</p> <p><b>The Prince Of Tides</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p><b>PLAZA</b></p> <p>Eric Roberts — in</p> <p><b>Best of the Best II</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Tel.: 673571</p> <p><b>Nabil Al Mashiel Theatre</b></p> <p>presents a film entitled:</p> <p><b>Al ilim Nuron</b></p> <p>A popular political comedy</p> <p>Actors: Abder Issa, Daoud Jaleel, Hassan Al Shaar, Fuad Shornali</p> <p>In addition to other comedians</p> <p>Every night at 8:15</p> <p>Tickets are sold all day</p>	<p>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Tel.: 625153</p> <p><b>ANLAM THEATRE</b></p> <p>The political comedy</p> <p><b>WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT</b></p> <p>Daily 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday</p> <p>English synopsis available</p>
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مكتبة من الأدب



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Arafat decides on central bank

CAIRO (R) — Yasser Arafat has approved a plan for a Palestinian central bank in the Israeli-occupied territories, an Arab newspaper reported. Al Hayat said the bank, and a Palestinian currency, were part of future statehood plans and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials realised an interim Palestinian authority in the occupied territories would have to use the Jordanian dinar in Gaza and the West Bank. But in Tunis, senior PLO officials close to the organisation's financial affairs said they were not aware of such a move. "I don't believe the report. Such a body is premature. It is a political matter and does not depend only of our own will," a senior official who asked to not be named told Reuters. Al Hayat, in a report from London quoting "informed Palestinian sources," said Mr. Arafat signed the plan in Tunis last week. The bank's headquarters could be in either the West Bank town of Jericho or the Gaza Strip, it added.

## Gulf ministers agree to upgrade joint force

ABU DHABI (AP) — Defence ministers of six oil-rich Gulf Arab states on Tuesday agreed to turn their largely ineffective rapid deployment force into a military power capable of thwarting attack against any of them. The new force would be equipped with a sophisticated early warning system, Fahem Al Qassimi, secretary-general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) told a news conference. The size and composition of the new force was not disclosed. The agreement culminated a two-day meeting of defence ministers of GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. The defence plan was first proposed after Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait which spotlighted the inefficiency of the existing 10,000-strong force, known as Peninsula Shield. The defence ministers will submit their recommendations to GCC heads of state when they meet in their annual summit in Riyadh Dec. 20.

## PLO official wounded in Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — A gunman using a silenced pistol shot and wounded Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's top political aide in South Lebanon Tuesday, police said. The attack on Zeid Wehbe, Mr. Arafat's personal representative, was the first against such a high-ranking PLO official in Lebanon since the Sept. 13 landmark Israel-PLO accord. Police said the assailant pumped four bullets into Mr. Wehbe's neck, arms and shoulders as he drove his Mercedes Benz from the house of his second wife in Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, at 8:20 a.m. (0620 GMT). They said the gunman escaped in a waiting BMW. Mr. Wehbe, 58, a father of four, was rushed to hospital, where doctors said his condition was stable after his wounds and a broken arm were treated. Mr. Wehbe had been keeping a low profile since the signing of the PLO-Israel accord that angered hardline Palestinian guerrilla factions.

## El Al to start flights to India

NEW DELHI (R) — Israel's El Al airline will start flying to India for the first time next month, Israeli embassy officials said. They said El Al would start a weekly service from Tel Aviv to Bombay and on to Bangkok on Dec. 10. If traffic justified it, the service would be extended to two or three times a week, they added. Israel and India established diplomatic ties in January 1991 and have swapped major trade delegations in an effort to establish serious economic relations.

## Defendant wrongly identified in blast trial

NEW YORK (AFP) — A defendant in the World Trade Centre bombing trial was mistakenly identified by an immigration official as a Palestinian she had stopped last year for entering the country with a false passport. After telling a defence lawyer she could identify Palestinian Ahmad Ajaj, who is also on trial in the case, Immigration and Naturalisation Service Inspector Susan Bethon Monday pointed to defendant Mohammad Salameh. When it became clear she had identified the wrong man, Ms. Bethon said that Mr. Ajaj and Mr. Salameh looked similar. It was unclear whether Mr. Bethon's mistake will have any effect on Mr. Ajaj's case. Mr. Ajaj, 27, Mr. Salameh and two other defendants are charged with conspiracy in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre that killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

## Sanbar appointed U.N. public information chief

AMMAN (ESCWA Information Service) — The secretary general of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Ghali has appointed Samir Sanbar as assistant secretary general for the Public Information. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Sanbar was special representative of the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea. Mr. Sanbar, who was the director of information centres divisions of the Department of Public Information (DPI) until January of this year will replace Mr. Marco Vinello-Chiodo. Mr. Vinello-Chiodo informed the secretary-general that he wanted to leave the post on Jan. 17, 1994.

## King welcomes election results

(Continued from page 1)

public life at this level," the King said. "I don't see why in the future there could not be more of the same."

"I hope that as a pioneer she would do whatever she can to ensure that this is the

beginning of a road that will be followed by others in the future," he said.

The King, who granted women the right to vote and run in elections in 1974, pointed out with pride that the number of women who voted Monday was higher than that of men.

## Israel to repair bridges

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel, making strides towards peace with its Arab neighbours, will repair bridges to Jordan to accommodate an expected three-fold increase in travellers, Transport Minister Israel Kassar said Monday.

The King Hussein and Prince Abdullah bridges linking the Israeli-occupied West Bank with Jordan will pass from army control to the transport ministry next year and will be repaired for about \$35 million, he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has given the "green light" for the handover after April 1, deadline for the army to complete its withdrawal from Jericho under the deal for Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, he said.

"Civilian administrative regulations to be put in place will be different from those of the Israeli army. They will be adapted for peace with the Palestinians and Jordan," he said during a tour of the Jordan River.

One million people are expected to cross the two bridges annually in the future, up from

the current figure of about 350,000, he said.

The King Hussein Bridge was built in 1920 by the British during their mandate of Palestine. But the Hagannah, the seed of the future Israeli army, blew it up in June 1946.

Rebuilt in 1948 by the Jordanians, it was destroyed again by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to military historian Meir Pail, Israeli soldiers who crossed the King Hussein, Abdullah and Prince Mohammad bridges in 1967 had to destroy them on U.S. orders to show Jordan they did not intend to go as far as Amman.

The King Hussein and Prince Abdullah bridges were put back in service after the 1967 war to allow Palestinians to travel back and forth from the West Bank and Jordan as well as ship goods out of the occupied territory.

Israeli authorities closed the King Hussein Bridge, near Nablus, after the Palestinian uprising erupted in 1987.



A Jewish settler sets a Palestinian green house ablaze Tuesday as settlers rioted after the killing near Hebron of another Gaza settler (AFP photo)

## Bedouin killed in attack as settlers continue rampage

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Three masked Palestinians drove a stolen garbage lorry into an Israeli car killing a bedouin on Tuesday, military officials said, as settlers protested the recent spate of murders.

The man from a village of Tel Seva, near Arad, died at the wheel of his car on the edge of Gaza City.

He was the seventh Israeli killed by Palestinians since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an autonomy agreement on Sept. 13 and the 183rd to die since the intifada began in December 1987.

The attack occurred during a third straight day of riots by settlers angered by the fatal shooting of one of their own. About 100 angry Israelis smashed Arab car windows with stones and blocked roads with boulders and burning tyres in the Gaza Strip.

In an effort to halt the spiralling violence, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin promised to consider settler demands to ease a housing freeze in the occupied territories, a Rabin aide said.

The municipal garbage truck that smashed into the automobile parked near a gas sta-

tion in the Gaza village of Beit Lahia had been stolen by three masked assailants, the army said.

They ordered the driver out at gunpoint around 8:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) and rammed a car with Israeli license plates, apparently intentionally, the army statement said.

The driver of the truck took it another 500 metres and then abandoned it, fleeing through an orange grove, Arab reports said.

The army said soldiers were searching for the man. The real truck driver showed up at a military headquarters to report the theft after he heard about the attack.

The crash victim was identified by radio reports as Salama Al Hawashli, 38, a bedouin from the area around Beersheba.

Mr. Rabin held his first meeting with settlement leaders in a year in an attempt to calm the violence.

Settler spokesman Aharon Domb said they told him they felt that in the wake of the Israel-PLO accord the government is abandoning Jewish residents in the occupied territories.

A Rabin aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

Mr. Rabin agreed that a joint committee would discuss their security as well as their complaints about a housing freeze and taxes.

Mr. Rabin froze construction and many settler benefits after being elected in June 1992, a move which facilitated Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Any setbacks could hurt the process.

The attack in Gaza also came up, the aide said. Mr. Rabin stressed that the army would remain "in charge of the security of the settlements and the settlers" during the era of Palestinian autonomy, he added.

Settlers badly beat two Palestinians in the Gush Katif settlement bloc in southern Gaza and smashed up their car with iron bars, Palestinian sources said.

The shooting dead Sunday of a settler from Kfar Darom ignited sporadic protests which have since continued throughout the occupied territories.

Extreme right-wing youngsters also stoned Palestinian vehicles near the industrial city of Ashdod in southern Israel on Tuesday. Voice of Israel radio reported. Police broke up the protest and made several arrests.

## French embassy, airline attacked in Tehran

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Unidentified attackers hurled grenades at the French embassy and Air France offices in Tehran on Tuesday, wounding one person lightly, a French diplomat said.

A man telephoned the embassy to say the attacks were warning to France for admitting Maryam Rajavi, a leader of the Iraq-based Iranian opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq group, he said.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said it received a telephone call from a person who took responsibility for the attacks on behalf of "victims of MKO (Mujahadeen) perpetrated crimes."

Two grenades were lobbed from a side street into the garden of the embassy, a detached building in central Tehran. The early afternoon attack caused no damage, the French diplomat said.

At about the same time a single grenade was thrown at the Air France office, housed in a block in the city's commercial centre. The blast wounded an employee slightly, shattered windows and damaged a computer, he said.

He said no one saw the attackers at the embassy, whose main entrance is usually guarded by one or two policemen.

There was no immediate comment from Iranian authorities.

In Paris, a French foreign ministry spokesman "deplored" the attacks and called on the Iranian authorities to investigate.

France on Monday rejected a reported Iranian demand for Maimon Rajavi to be extradited, insisting she was a political refugee. She has lived in France since 1983 as a political refugee, the foreign ministry said.

But the Tehran daily Ressalet reported she had arrived in France 10 days ago from Iraq and said that Iran demanded she be expelled "immediately" (see page 2).

France has asked Iranian authorities to reinforce protection of the embassy and other French installations, spokesman Richard Duque told reporters at a daily briefing.

## French police round up 70 suspected Algerians

PARIS (AFP) — Police rounded up at least 70 suspected Algerian fundamentalists or sympathisers in a nationwide sweep in France after Islamic militant kidnappings, murders and threats against French nationals in Algeria.

The detainees included Moussa Kraouche, president of the Algerian Brotherhood, which is believed to be the link in France with the "outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria, and another Brotherhood official, Djaffar Al Houari.

Members of the Algerian community in cities such as Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Nice and Lille, thought to be linked to the FIS were rounded up and being questioned, police said.

The sweep came two weeks after three French consulate officials were kidnapped in Algiers and four days after French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua threatened to move against Algerian Islamic militants in France.

Mr. Kraouche was detained by police in Versailles, southwest of Paris, while Mr. Houari was arrested in a Paris suburb and taken to the capital for questioning.

Last June French authorities banned two publications of the Algerian Brotherhood because of their "violently anti-Western and anti-French" language.

The group denies links to FIS, which was outlawed in 1992 after the army intervened in January of that year to prevent a second round of general elections which the

fundamentalist party was poised to win. That move plunged Algeria into guerrilla warfare by armed extremists.

A total of 30 people were arrested in the Paris region, 13 in southwest France, eight in Lyon in the south, about six in the southwest and several in the northeast.

Police said those arrested in Paris were all FIS members or sympathisers. They said the searches were "fruitful" and had turned up FIS propaganda.

The police operation created "a real wave of panic among Islamic Algerian sympathisers," an official at a mosque in Paris, said.

There are some three million Muslims in France, a country of about 55 million people.

The three French consular officials kidnapped Oct. 24 were released in Algeria at the end of October following intervention by Algerian security forces.

The last to be freed carried a message from kidnappers warning foreigners to leave Algeria within a month or face "sudden death."

French police said they believed there were between 50 and 100 "hard core" militants linked to the FIS in France, with the vast majority of the Algerian community opposed to extremist beliefs.

Charles Pasqua last week warned Algerians in France who "claim ties to the Islamic Salvation Front" from conducting political activities which were "in opposition to French interests."

## Israel, PLO agree to talks next week

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian and Israeli negotiators reached agreement Tuesday to restart their suspended peace talks next week, an official close to the negotiations said.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, said a final statement would be issued later and that it reflected a "very positive" outcome.

The agreement was reached in a second meeting by an eight-man committee members did not want to disclose where the talks would be held, adding the sessions were likely to be moved each week.

The committee met for the first time Monday, but Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian officials all refused to give details of the discussions.

The sessions have been shielded from the press, that the government would not even confirm the meeting place, believed to be the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

The secrecy follows a complaint Sunday by Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) chief negotiator, Nabil Shaath, that media coverage of PLO-Israel talks at the Egyptian resort of Taba had interfered with the negotiations.

Dr. Shaath announced suspension of the Taba talks Nov. 24 compelling Israel was seeking to redeploy its troops in occupied territory rather than withdraw them under the terms of the PLO-Israel accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

The Taba talks are aimed at

working out details of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho under terms of the Washington accord.

The accord calls for turning over security to Palestinian police in the two areas, but it leaves in Israeli hands the safety of Jewish settlers in Gaza. An Israeli plan for protecting settlers was apparently behind the breakup of the talks.

The committee to end the impasse in the peace talks was headed by the chief Taba delegates, Dr. Shaath for the PLO and Israeli Major General Amnon Shahak.

On Sunday, Dr. Shaath had said reporters would be barred when the peace negotiations resumed. Gad Ben-Ari, a spokesman for the Mr. Rabin, said that the negotiations would be moved somewhere other than Taba.

"They are into serious discussions. I don't think they will reach a final solution but they are expected to come up with a breakthrough to open up the dialogue again in (the Egyptian resort of) Taba," said sources quoted to Reuters.

"With all the media flurry in Taba it was hard to achieve a breakthrough there," the source said. "The channels must resume quickly. Time is short and there are only five weeks left for the agreement to start going into effect."

Another diplomat said both sides were showing flexibility so far in the negotiations.

## Arafat accuses Syria of helping extremists

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accused Syria on Tuesday of "giving a free hand" to extremists and fanatical groups opposed to the Middle East peace agreement.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "is not against the (peace) agreement and not with the agreement. But at the same time he's giving a free hand to the opposition... fanatical groups and all extremists," Mr. Arafat told the foreign relations commission of the Belgian Parliament.

Mr. Arafat, in Brussels for a two-day visit to win support for the occupied territories, said he was opposed to outside interference in the Palestinian problem.

"We accept opposition within the Palestinian field but not from outside," he added, in an apparent reference to Syrian interference.

"We got a positive response," he told reporters after a breakfast meeting with Mr. Claes.

"An international presence could participate with us in all directions, including the training of police forces and the security forces," said Mr. Arafat, who arrived in Brussels on Monday on his first official visit to EC headquarters.

He gave no indication of how many foreign troops he thought would be needed.

The main thrust of his visit is to win financial and political support for Palestinians in the occupied territories, particularly the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are holding secret talks in Cairo to resolve their differences after the PLO walked out of talks last week over the terms for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, set in the accord to begin next month.

Mr. Arafat said he believed full talks would resume soon. "We are looking for an honest implementation of the peace agreement," he told reporters.

Mr. Arafat said earlier Tuesday that he had asked the European Community to consider sending a multinational force to Gaza and Jericho, and had received a positive re-

sponse.

Mr. Arafat was speaking to journalists after a meeting with Willy Claes, Belgian chairman of the EC's Council of Foreign Ministers.

The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said he had asked the EC to study the possibility of despatching the force during a meeting with foreign ministers here on Monday, and all had given a positive response.

Gaza and Jericho are the first Palestinian areas which are to be granted autonomy under a PLO-Israel agreement reached in September.

Mr. Claes said the EC planned to spend an initial 20 million ECUs (\$22.5 million) in the occupied territories over the next few weeks. The 12-member bloc has also given broad backing to a five-year plan worth 500 million ECUs (\$565 million).

The Belgian foreign minister said his meetings with Mr. Arafat had looked at practical issues such as how money would be distributed and through which institutions.

"We are trying to translate decisions into concrete terms," Mr. Claes said.

The EC is the biggest single donor to the occupied territories. Mr. Arafat was scheduled to meet with European Commission President Jacques Delors to discuss the practicalities of EC aid.

The PLO said last Friday it would create an economic council that Mr. Arafat said would have close contact with an ad hoc committee made up of the key donors.

Donors, including the EC, are sceptical about the council, fearing it will be made up of politicians and not economists.

Mr. Arafat has tried to dampen EC doubts over the council and has instead focussed on the speed with which he hopes the 12-member bloc will pump funds into the territories. Immediate targets include sanitation, water and health projects.

"Our people need to feel the taste of peace, they are in need of small projects very soon," Mr. Arafat told Belgian parliament.

## COLUMN

## Andrew, Fergie 'may divorce'

LONDON (AP) — After nearly two years of living apart, Prince Andrew and his wife Sarah are planning to divorce, Sarah's sister believes. "I think that yes, after a year's separation, Sarah will divorce," Jane Makim said in an interview published Monday in the glossy Hello magazine. The second son of Queen Elizabeth II and the former Sarah Ferguson have lived apart since March 1992. It was not until this past June that they separated formally. The couple's two daughters, Princess Beatrice, 5, and Princess Eugenie, 3, live with their mother, Mrs. Makim, who at 36 is two years older than her sister, didn't believe there would be a reconciliation. "No, I don't think so. But only they can answer that question," she told Hello, which specialises in flattering interviews with the famous, and photos featuring their glamorous lives. "Personally, I think they could be held up as role models for the most civilised and positive way to handle divorce," she said. Mrs. Makim, who is herself divorced, denied reports in some newspapers that her sister has been frozen out by Buckingham Palace since the separation. "Sarah still has a wonderful relationship with the queen and Prince Andrew," she said. The couple, known formally as the Duke and Duchess of York, have been photographed dining out together and attending events at Princess Beatrice's school. Mrs. Makim will marry Australian marketing consultant Rainer Luedecke, 34, at Easter. She said her sister has confirmed she will attend. Texas businessman John Bryan, pictured snuggling with the topless duchess at a French villa in 1992, also has been invited. Mrs. Makim said. Her former husband, Alex Makim, has custody of their children Seamus, 12, and Ayesha, 7.

## Swim star's mother caught in Stasi disclosures

BERLIN (AP) — The mother of swimming star Franziska Van Almsick is the latest eastern German reportedly linked to the notorious Communist secret police. Four years after the Berlin Wall came down, many people are still coming to grips with the domestic espionage that formed one of the worst parts of the East German regime. In an interview Monday with the BZ tabloid, Jutta Van Almsick acknowledged she had passed on information to the now-disbanded Stasi during her days as an East German sports official in the 1980s. But unlike thousands of other named informants, Ms. Van Almsick offered no apologies. "It's true that I always stood up for this country (East Germany)," she told the newspaper. "I don't deny that, in contrast to many other people." Der Spiegel magazine said the Stasi highly valued Ms. Van Almsick's information, which reportedly disrupted several careers. Her daughter, known nationwide as Franziska, has charmed Germany with her wholesome looks and medal-winning sprints down the swimming lanes. Franziska won two silver and two bronze medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. She also won six gold medals at the European Swimming Championships in August in Sheffield, England.

## Suspect held in attack on U.S. lugers

MENINGEN, Germany (AP) — A suspect in the neo-Nazi attack on members of the U.S. luge team has been arrested, but a court rejected arrest warrants for two others, a prosecutor said. About 15 neo-Nazis beat up luge star Duncan Kennedy in a bar in the eastern German mountain resort of Oberhof on Oct. 29. Kennedy stood his ground and was assaulted by skinheads who had taunted a black teammate. The incident raised concern among U.S. winter sports athletes coming to Germany to train for the February Winter Olympics in Norway. The failure of the courts to immediately jail those responsible has focused criticism on the German courts, which are accused of being too lenient with young right-wing thugs. Prosecutor Peter Moelck said the court in nearby Suhl ordered the arrest of a 21-year-old suspect over the weekend.

هناك من لا يرى